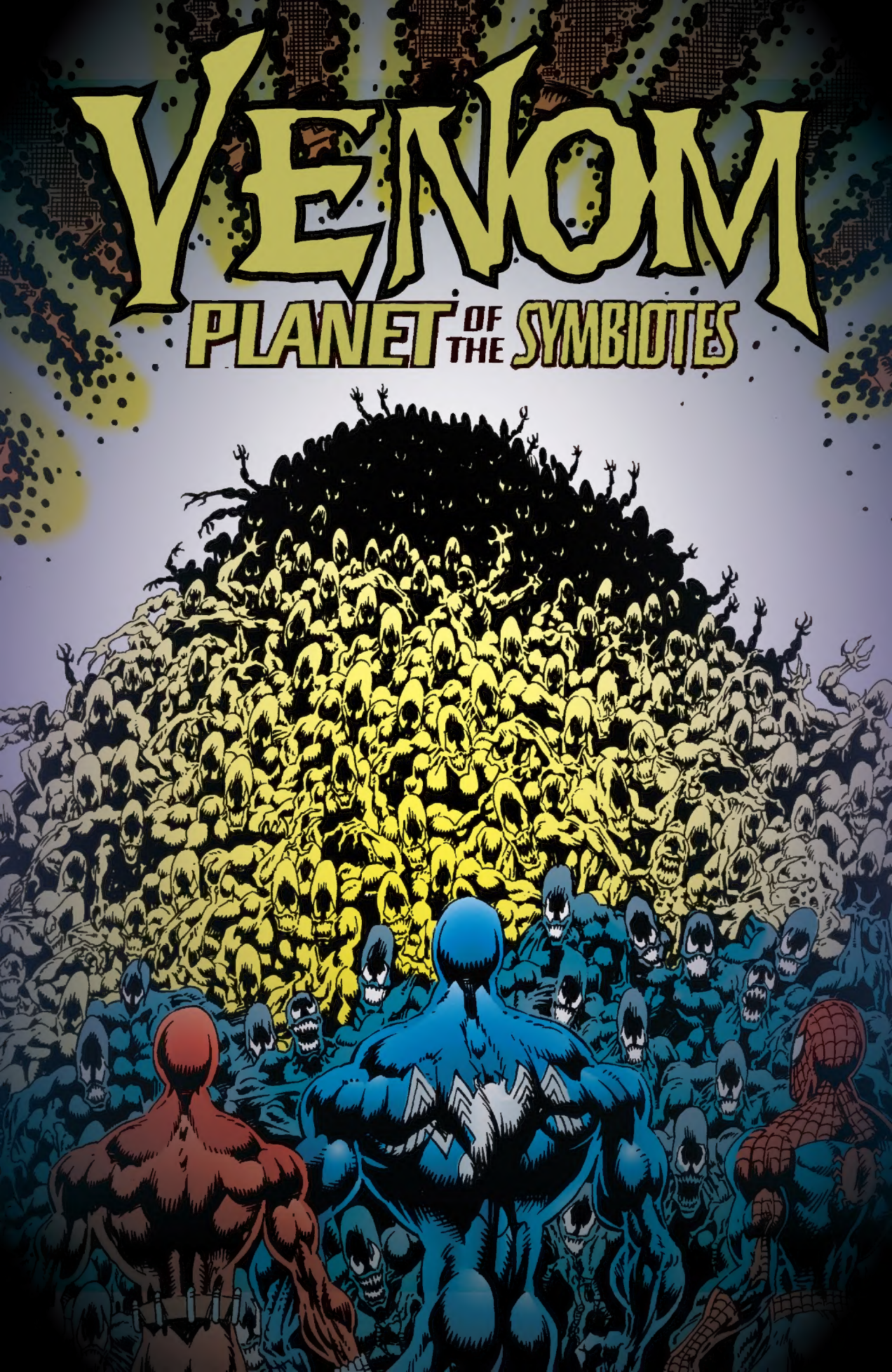
MARVEL
VENOM
PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES
ST. PIERRE


VENOM
PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES

VENOM

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INTRODUCTION

Venomania! That's the word I use to describe Marveldom's ongoing fascination with our slobbering symbiote. If you're holding this hot little item in your hands, you may be a Venomaniac yourself. And we're not bringing you one Venom or two or three; we're laying an entire planet of slimy symbiotes in your lap! Nobody can claim we're not giving your hard-earned money's worth here at the House of Ideas. The Spider-Man mythos has spawned so many incredible creations, but with the possible exception of the Punisher, none of them gained the notoriety of our toothy alien invader.

In case you're not aware of his origin, it dates back to the blockbuster ***Secret Wars*** series of the mid-1980s. Venom was first glimpsed as an otherworldly costume the ol' web-spinner picked up on Battleworld. Subsequently, it was revealed that the innocent-seeming apparel was, in truth, an alien being that was actually grafting itself onto an unsuspecting Peter Parker. When Peter realized what was happening, he rejected the strange symbiote, who soon found himself a more suitable host in news reporter Eddie Brock. Because Brock had a beef with Peter Parker/Spider-Man, naturally, so did the symbiote. Thus was born one of the great hero/nemesis relationships in comics. Not surprisingly, it has endured until today.

Initially, I was a bit put off by Venom, because I'm a bit of a Spidey purist. I didn't feel that an alien belonged as part of web-head's rogues' gallery. Eventually, I came around and realized that the Eddie Brock/Venom dynamic was a fascinating one that deserved real exploration, so I overcame my reservations. (Actually, way back in the Lee/Ditko era, the Terrible Tinkerer was first presented as an alien interloper until the redoubtable writer Roger Stern exposed him as merely a human being wearing an alien disguise to further his ends. I guess if it was okay with Stan and Steve to sneak an alien in, it's okay with me.)

Since his introduction back in the mid-1980s, Venom achieved a kind of cult status that places him beyond being simply a deadly foe of Spider-Man. Several aspects of Venom transcend the Spidey villain status quo. First, Venom, at times, has shown motivations beyond mere villainy. There was a series, decades ago, called ***Venom: Lethal Protector***, where the symbiote was anything but a mindless killing machine and actually had some positive qualities. So this is not a simple character to understand. That complexity plays a part in what you're about to read. And there's this fascinating backstory to him, which is also mined to great effect here. In fact, the linchpin of "Planet of the Symbiotes" is the bizarre relationship between Eddie Brock and Venom. That's at the core of everything herein.

Venom's graphic appearance is also a major factor in his enormous popularity. You really can't accuse any of Spidey's baddies of lacking in visual impact. Still, when you consider Venom's physical attributes—that tongue, those eyes, those teeth, those claws—you have to put him near the top of the list. Whenever a penciler gets the chance to draw Venom in a story, they go absolutely bonkers. It was the massively talented Todd McFarlane who really began the fun with his interpretation. Then, a succession of artists have just given their all to ensure their rendition is a memorable one. Something crazy happens when Venom shows up; have you noticed that? The rules go out the window as he leaps aggressively from panel to panel, great-white-shark-like teeth gleaming, tongue elongated out of all proportion and the sharpest claws this side of Sabretooth suitably bared. His presence seems to give license to both the writer and artist to go nuts and test the boundaries of the medium. That's a lot of what I believe makes Venom such a sought-after character.

This titanic tome you smartly purchased contains, in a sense, the apotheosis of Venomania for

its time. Hearkening back to my opening paragraph, this epic fulfills the darkest wishes of any Venomaniac worth his salt. You will experience a world of symbiotes! It's Venom times millions! How cool is that? I applaud scripter David Michelinie for not just taking the easy way out and opting simply for spectacle. This five-part phantasmagoria has solid literary underpinnings that relate all the way back to Venom's early appearances some ten years before. They say the finest stories aren't about the war; rather, they're about the warrior. That's certainly germane to "Planet of the Symbiotes." Despite the awesome symbiote invasion of Earth, which has to be seen to be believed, it's the sometimes troubled relationship between Eddie Brock and his alien overlay that's at the heart of the story. I was very impressed with the discipline David showed in maintaining such a solid structure that inevitably built toward a shattering climax, which was a swirling cauldron of indescribable despair, grief and triumph. The very fate of the symbiote race hangs in the balance and the final resolution is a stunner that will stay with you a long time.

I haven't forgotten that crimson chaos-bringer Carnage. Because of his related origin, I include him as part of the symbiote phenomenon. Don't want him on my trail.

If there's any Spidey villain scarier than Venom, this is the guy. And when he takes the stage—look out! Just check out that cover for ***Web of Spider-Man Super Special #1*** we've kindly reprinted and you'll get the message, Believer. This scarlet-hued horror snacks on our symbiotes as if they were Ritz Crackers. So you really get everything in the mix here.

Many kudos go to the quintet of top pencilers who took on the challenging assignment of drawing hordes of salivating symbiotes. Dave Hoover, Joe St. Pierre, Kyle Hotz, Darick Robertson and Steve Lightle each contributed a chapter to this pulse-pounding saga that has stood the test of time. Despite the varied art styles, it all fits together as hand in glove. It's that rare pairing of pencilers where the final result is a seamless whole. Bravo to all of them!

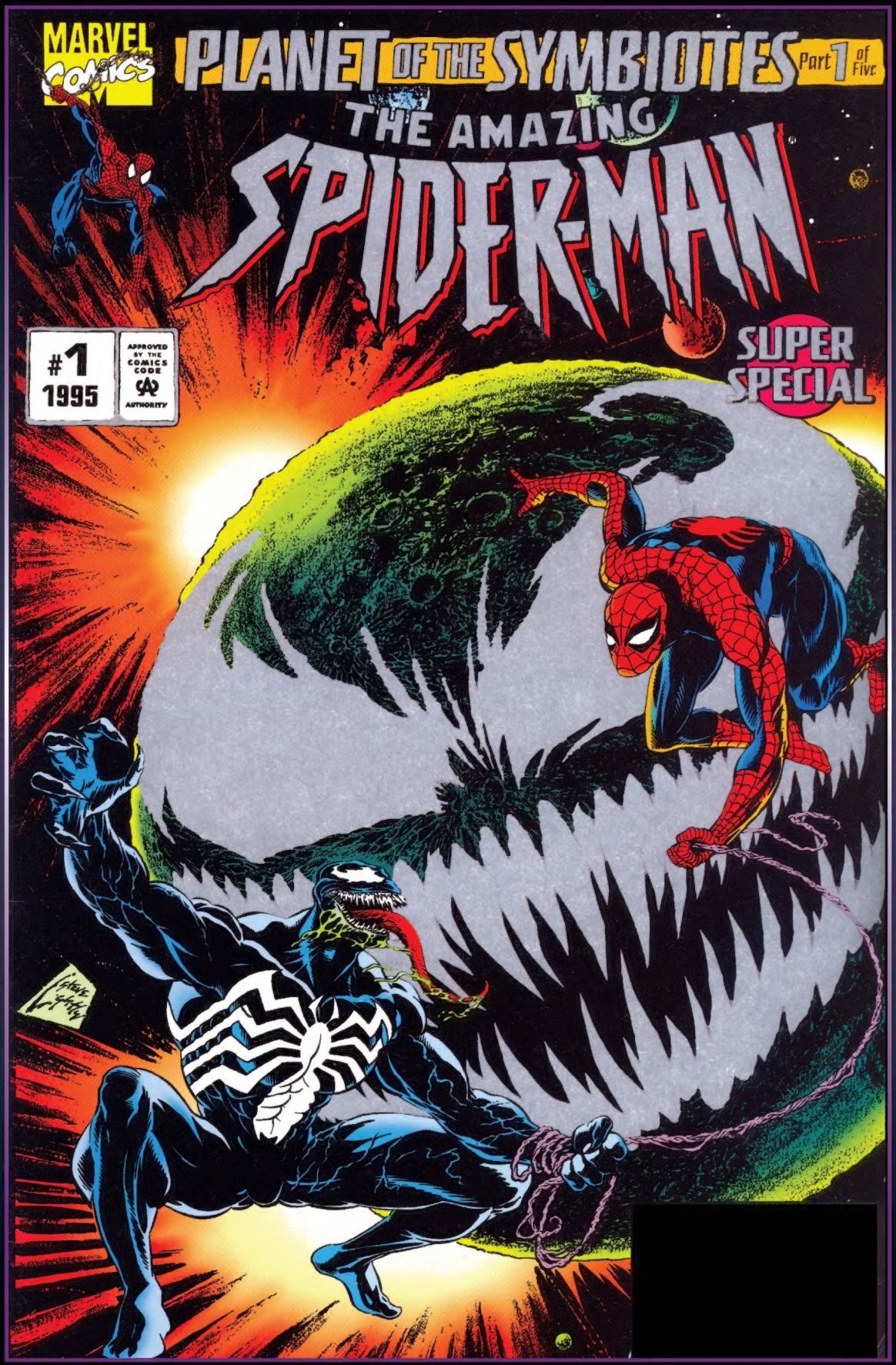
"Planet of the Symbiotes" is a feast for the mind and eye of all you longtime Venomaniacs. Today there is certainly no shortage of prime Venom material being published. The symbiote phenomenon continues to proliferate and support a constant surge of new series. No Venom completists should be without this marvelous milestone gracing their shelves. It draws together many of the strands of symbiote mythology and reads as fresh today as it did more than twenty years ago. Take it from me, Marvelite, if you grok Brock, you came to the right place!

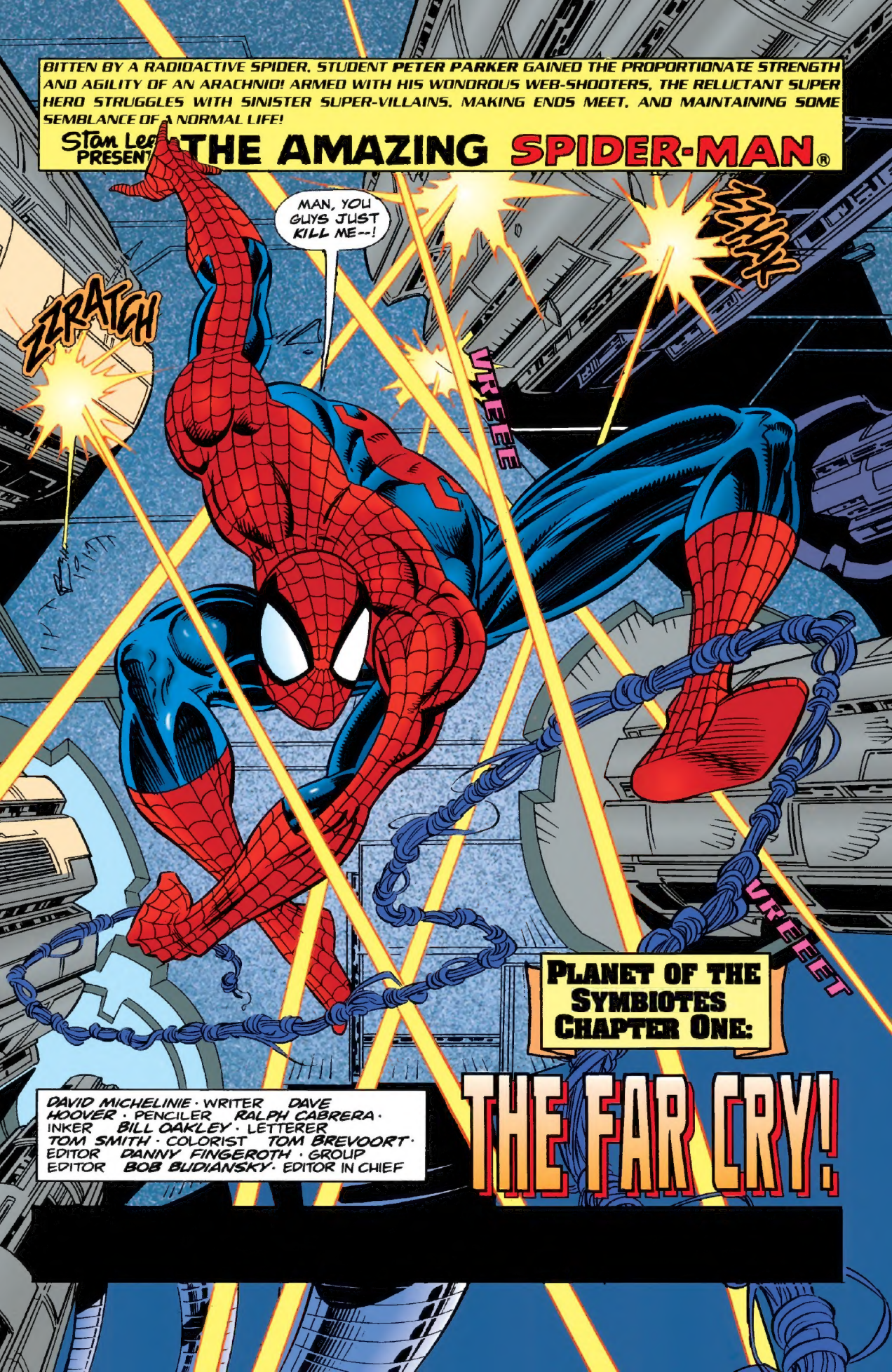
Enjoy,

Ralph Macchio

Ralph Macchio

Ralph Macchio spent over 35 years at Marvel, starting as an assistant editor and later writing Avengers, Thor *and many others. As editor, he oversaw books across the Marvel line, including shepherding the Ultimate line into existence, and editing all of Stephen King's Marvel adaptations.*


MARVEL COMICS
PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES Part 1 of Five
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN
SUPER SPECIAL
#1
1995
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

MAN, YOU GUYS JUST KILL ME--!

ZZRATCH

ZZHAK

VREEE

VREEET

PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES CHAPTER ONE:

THE FAR CRY!

DAVID MICHELINIE · WRITER DAVE HOOVER · PENCILER RALPH CABRERA · INKER BILL OAKLEY · LETTERER TOM SMITH · COLORIST TOM BREVOORT · EDITOR DANNY FINGEROTH · GROUP EDITOR BOB BUDIANSKY · EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU SAY YOU'RE *NEO-LUDDITES*, WANT TO ELIMINATE *TECHNOLOGY*--

--BUT YOU DO IT WITH STOLEN *LASER* RIFLES?!?

TALK ABOUT *MEGA*-HYPOCRISY--!

THE DEVIL'S *ARMS* SERVE WELL AGAINST THE DEVIL'S *WORK*!

BESIDES, DESTROYING THAT *CLYSTRON WAVE MODULATOR* IS WORTH ANY COMPROMISE!

THAT'S THEIR TARGET? THAT BIG MACHINE SUSPENDED OVERHEAD?

IT COMPACTS ENERGY WAVES, MULTIPLYING THE STRENGTH OF ANY ATTACHED *POWER SOURCE* BY TEN!

TECHNOLOGY ALREADY BLIGHTS THE ENVIRONMENT-- THIS "ADVANCE" COULD INCREASE THAT DETERIORATION *TENFOLD!*

SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING!

CAUGHT IN A SQUEEZE PLAY!

CAN'T TUMBLE AWAY IN TIME!

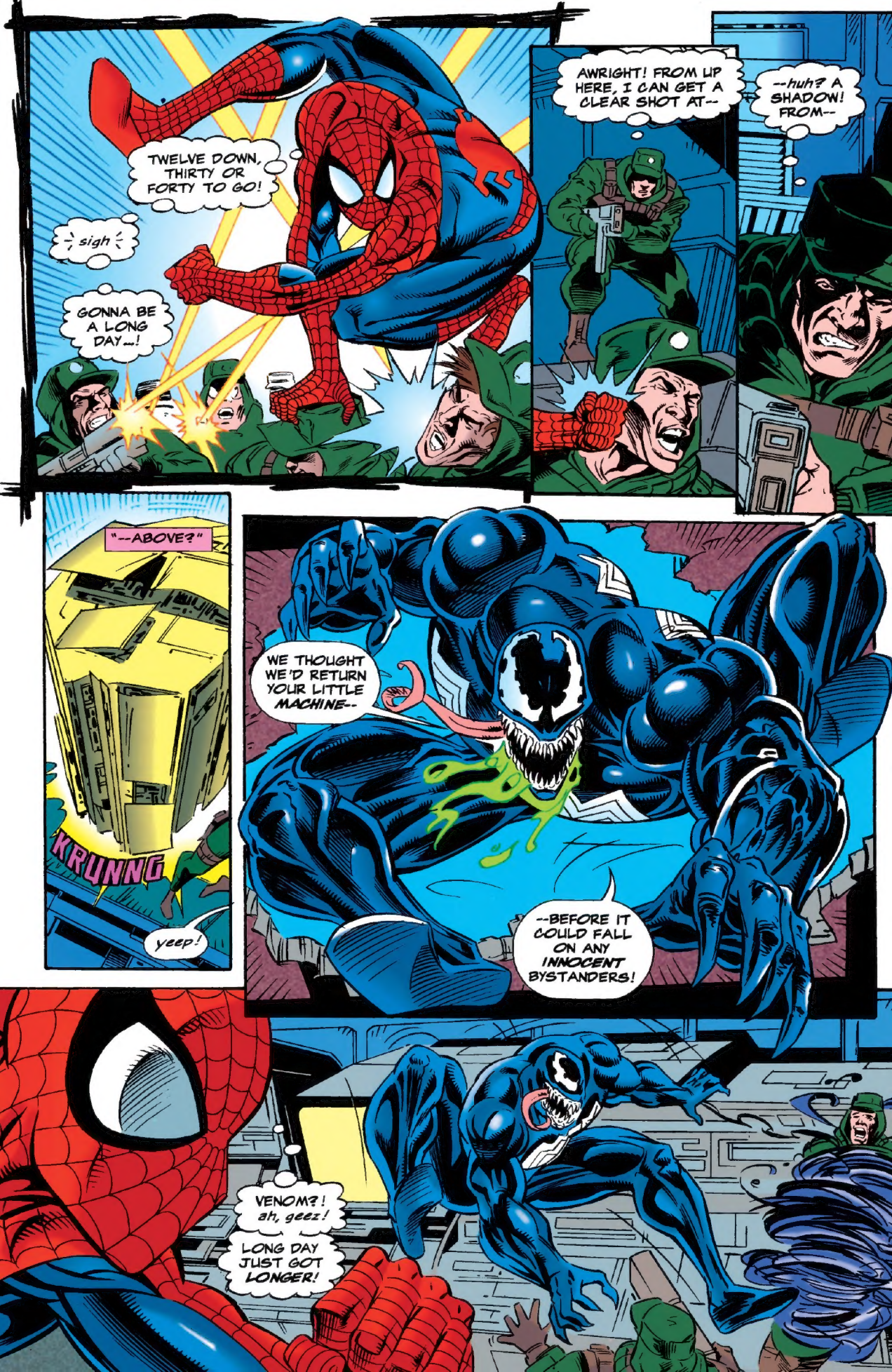
BUT WITH THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A *SPIDER*--

TOK

"--I DON'T HAVE TO!"

SKTASH

SIXTY SECONDS EARLIER, ONE BLOCK AWAY.
IS IT... US?
EDDIE BROCK COMMUNES WITH THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE THAT MIMICS HIS HUMAN CLOTHING.
EVER SINCE WE JOINED, BECAME ONE--
--BECAME VENOM--
--I SAW US AS KINDRED SPIRITS, ACTING TOGETHER. NOW--
--I'M NOT SURE.*
*SINCE THE EVENTS OF VENOM: SEPARATION ANXIETY.-- TOM
I KNOW IT'S RIGHT TO PROTECT INNOCENTS, NO MATTER WHAT COST--
--INCLUDING THE DEATHS OF THOSE WHO'D HINDER US! AND YET...
...HAVE THOSE DEATHS BEEN OUR CHOICE, OR YOURS?
I WAS ALWAYS A PHYSICAL PERSON, BUT UNTIL OUR UNION I WAS NEVER SO--
--VIOLENT?
SKTASH

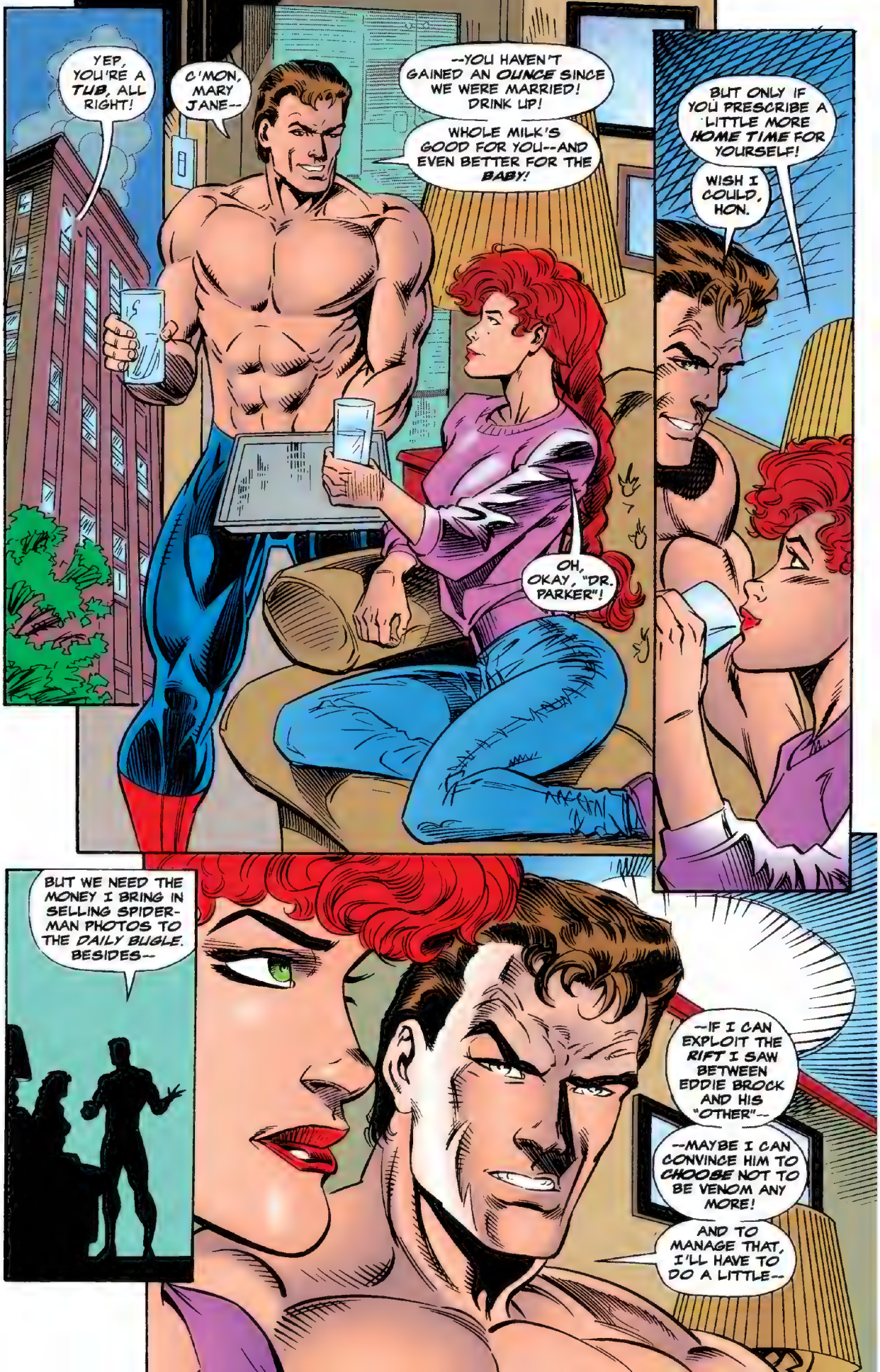

TWELVE DOWN, THIRTY OR FORTY TO GO!
sigh
GONNA BE A LONG DAY...!
AWRIGHT! FROM UP HERE, I CAN GET A CLEAR SHOT AT--
--huh? A SHADOW! FROM--
"--ABOVE?"
KRUNNG
yeep!
WE THOUGHT WE'D RETURN YOUR LITTLE MACHINE--
--BEFORE IT COULD FALL ON ANY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!
VENOM?! ah, geez!
LONG DAY JUST GOT LONGER!

IF HE'LL JUST BEHAVE 'TIL I CAN GET FREE...!
UNCARING NEANDERTHALS LIKE YOU TEND TO HAVE TINY BRAINS!
PLIP!
YUM!
:smack:
WE LOOOOOVE HORS D'OEUVRES!

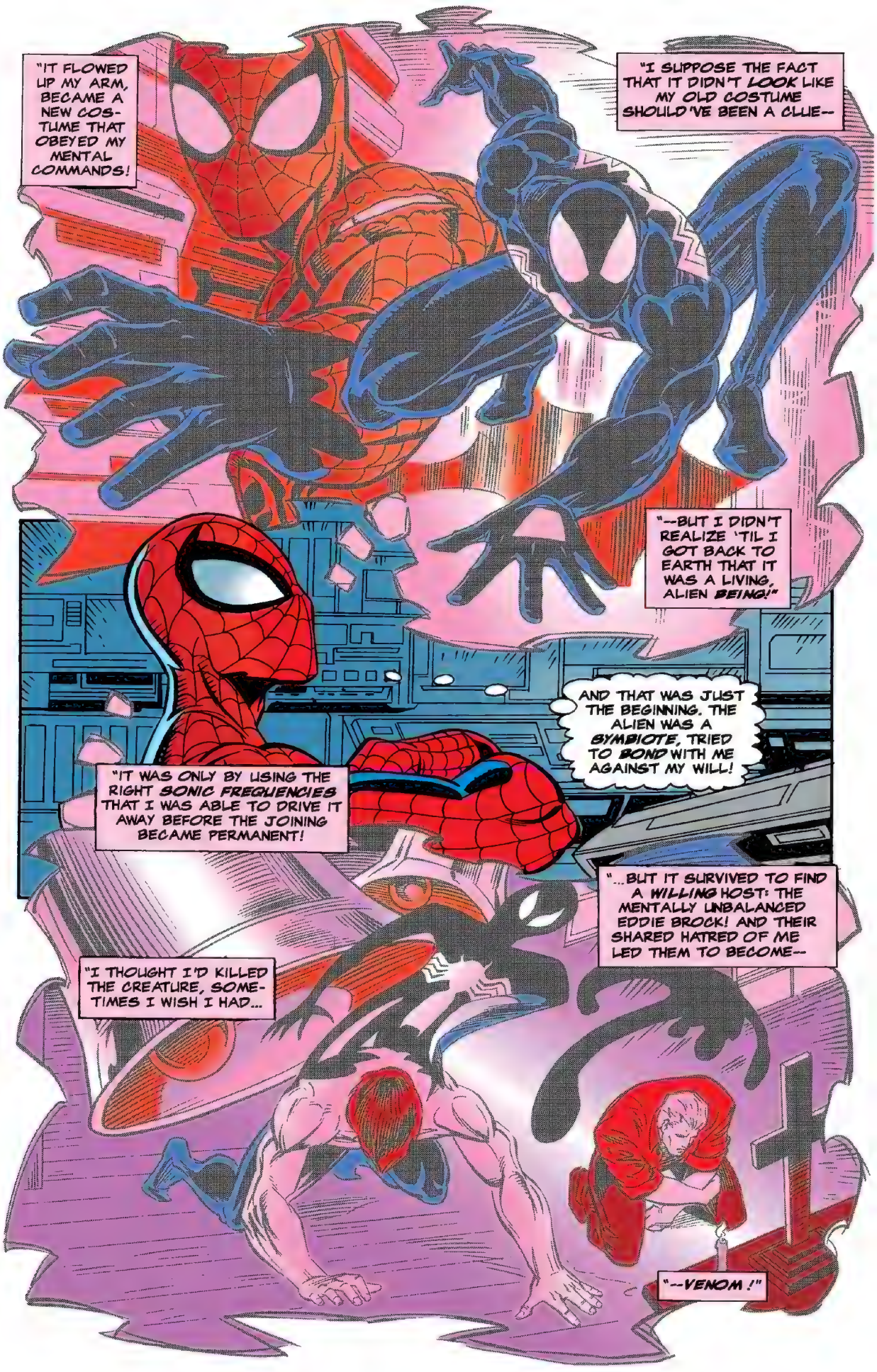
NO! GOTTA GET OVER THERE BEFORE--
WAIT!
I--I DIDN'T SAY KILL HIM!
WHAT?
I...I THOUGHT IT?
ARE YOU SURE...?
WHAT THE--!?
uh-oh! SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING!
GO! SPERZEL'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS! I'LL DO WHAT I CAN!
RIGHT!
MACHINE ACTIVATING!?
TIK-TAKKA-TEK!
SHUT IT OFF! NOW!
YOU KIDDIN'?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I TURNED IT ON!
whoa! TALK ABOUT BEGINNER'S LUCK!
VRRAK

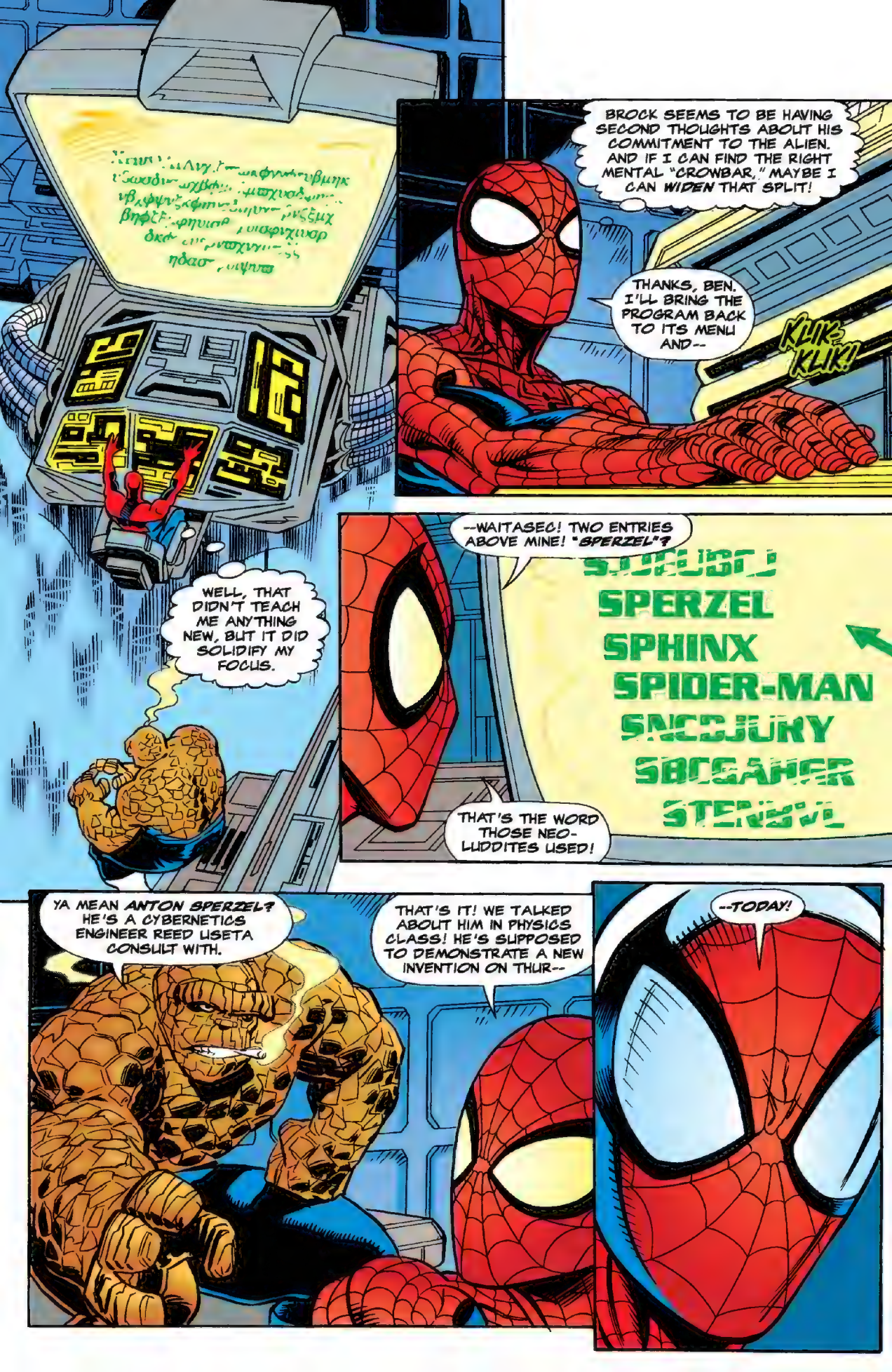
VENOM AND YOUR BUDDIES TOOK OFF!
BUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU...?
SLOWLY, SPIDER-MAN'S FINGERS CURL TOWARDS HIS PALM...
...WHERE THEY LIGHTLY TAP THE TRIGGER OF HIS WEB-SHOOTER!
SIRENS HEADED THIS WAY!
POLICE CAN HANDLE IT NOW!
NUTS! FIGURED VENOM'D BE LONG GONE--
--BUT THOSE LUDDITES ARE NOWHERE IN SIGHT, EITHER!
I MAY HAVE A CLUE, THOUGH: I'VE HEARD THE WORD "SPERZEL" BEFORE!
JUST CAN'T PLACE IT!
HARD TO CONCENTRATE, AFTER WHAT I SAW!
VENOM'S HESITATION IS SOMETHING NEW, AND COULD BE BIG!
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO PUT VENOM COMPLETELY OUT OF BUSINESS BEFORE! BUT NOW--

--THERE MAY BE A WAY TO MAKE EDDIE BROCK DO IT!
OUR EFFICIENCY AS A PROTECTOR IS BEING COMPROMISED!
THIS IS BAD.
WE...
...I...
...HAVE TO BE STRONG-- CONFIDENT! WAFFLING ISN'T MY WAY! AND YET...
...I HAVE QUESTIONS. PERHAPS IF I WERE TO TALK TO SOMEONE--
--WHAT?
YES! YOU'RE RIGHT!
I DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE! I'M EDWARD ALLAN BROCK! AND BY HEAVEN, I AM THE MASTER OF MY OWN FATE!
AREN'T I...?


YEP, YOU'RE A TUB, ALL RIGHT!
C'MON, MARY JANE--
--YOU HAVEN'T GAINED AN OUNCE SINCE WE WERE MARRIED! DRINK UP!
WHOLE MILK'S GOOD FOR YOU--AND EVEN BETTER FOR THE BABY!
OH, OKAY, "DR. PARKER"!
BUT ONLY IF YOU PRESCRIBE A LITTLE MORE HOME TIME FOR YOURSELF!
WISH I COULD, HON.
BUT WE NEED THE MONEY I BRING IN SELLING SPIDER-MAN PHOTOS TO THE DAILY BUGLE. BESIDES--
--IF I CAN EXPLOIT THE RIFT I SAW BETWEEN EDDIE BROCK AND HIS "OTHER"--
--MAYBE I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO CHOOSE NOT TO BE VENOM ANY MORE!
AND TO MANAGE THAT, I'LL HAVE TO DO A LITTLE--

"--RESEARCH!"
YEAH, REED USETA DO A LOT O' THAT RESEARCH STUFF, TOO!
I CAN IMAGINE! THANKS FOR LETTING ME TAP THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S DATABASE, BEN.
NO PROBLEM. JUST GO TO THE MAIN MENU AND CLICK ON "SPIDER-MAN," KID.
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS MISSION REVIEW ISN'T TELLING ME A LOT I DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW! AFTER ALL--
"--I WAS THERE WITH THE FF ON BATTLE-WORLD, DURING THE GREAT SUPER HERO WAR!
"WHEN MY COSTUME GOT DAMAGED, THE HULK TOLD ME THERE WAS A MACHINE THAT COULD GENERATE A NEW ONE BY THOUGHT ALONE!*
*SEE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS #8. --TOM
"BUT WHEN I FOUND WHAT I ASSUMED WAS THE RIGHT MACHINE, AND ST!CK MY HEAD IN--
"--THIS BLACK BLOB POPPED OUT!

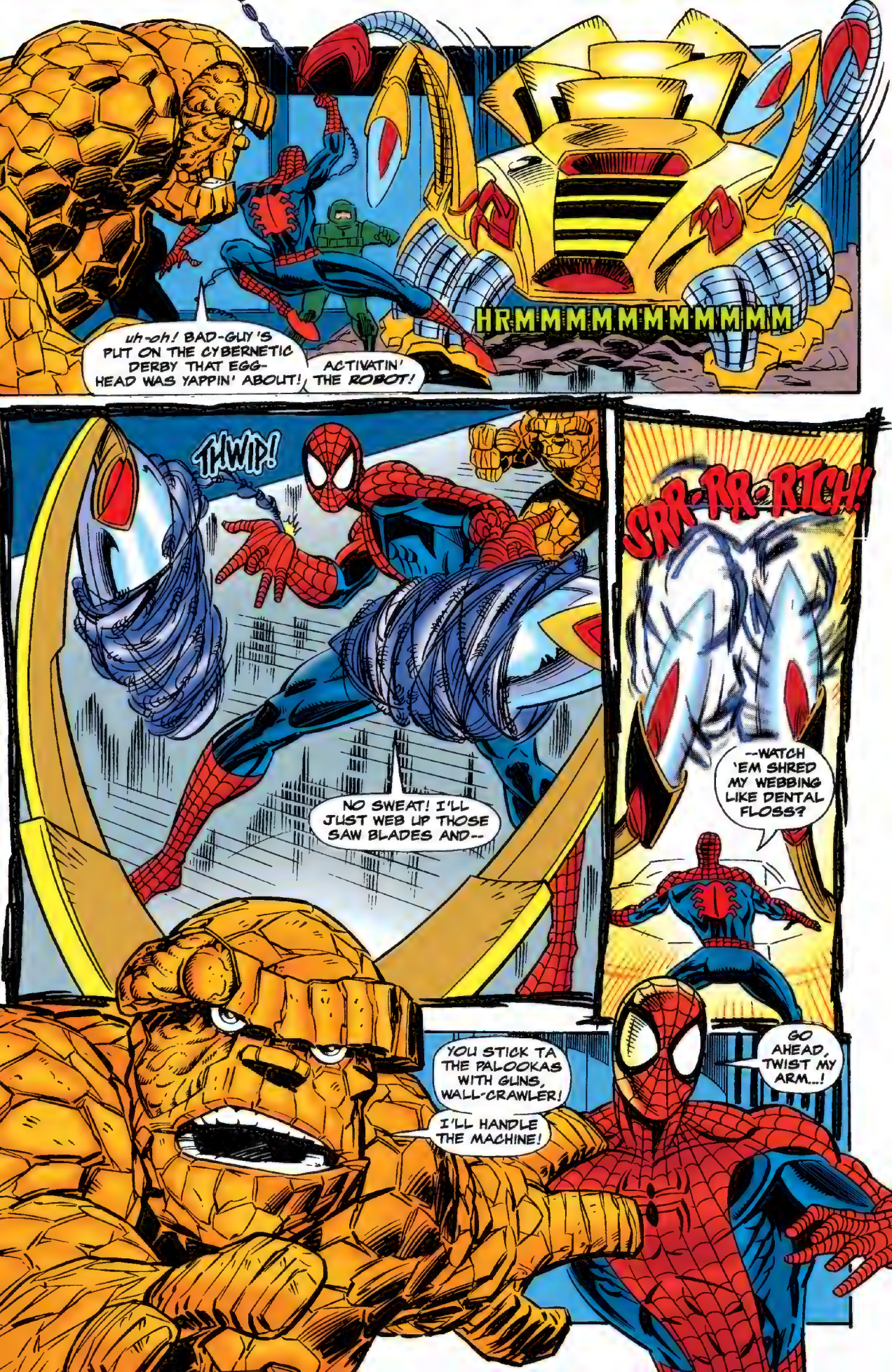

"IT FLOWED UP MY ARM, BECAME A NEW COSTUME THAT OBEYED MY MENTAL COMMANDS!
"I SUPPOSE THE FACT THAT IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE MY OLD COSTUME SHOULD'VE BEEN A CLUE--
"--BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE 'TIL I GOT BACK TO EARTH THAT IT WAS A LIVING, ALIEN BEING!"
AND THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. THE ALIEN WAS A SYMBIOTE, TRIED TO BOND WITH ME AGAINST MY WILL!
"IT WAS ONLY BY USING THE RIGHT SONIC FREQUENCIES THAT I WAS ABLE TO DRIVE IT AWAY BEFORE THE JOINING BECAME PERMANENT!
"...BUT IT SURVIVED TO FIND A WILLING HOST: THE MENTALLY UNBALANCED EDDIE BROCK! AND THEIR SHARED HATRED OF ME LED THEM TO BECOME--
"I THOUGHT I'D KILLED THE CREATURE, SOMETIMES I WISH I HAD...
"--VENOM!"


BROCK SEEMS TO BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS COMMITMENT TO THE ALIEN. AND IF I CAN FIND THE RIGHT MENTAL "CROWBAR," MAYBE I CAN WIDEN THAT SPLIT!
THANKS, BEN. I'LL BRING THE PROGRAM BACK TO ITS MENU AND--
KLIK-KLIK!
WELL, THAT DIDN'T TEACH ME ANYTHING NEW, BUT IT DID SOLIDIFY MY FOCUS.
--WAITASEC! TWO ENTRIES ABOVE MINE! "SPERZEL"?
SPERZEL
SPHINX
SPIDER-MAN
THAT'S THE WORD THOSE NEO-LUDDITES USED!
YA MEAN ANTON SPERZEL? HE'S A CYBERNETICS ENGINEER REED USETA CONSULT WITH.
THAT'S IT! WE TALKED ABOUT HIM IN PHYSICS CLASS! HE'S SUPPOSED TO DEMONSTRATE A NEW INVENTION ON THUR--
--TODAY!

WHAT DO YOU SAY, BEN? FEEL LIKE A LITTLE CLOBBERIN' TIME?
HEY, DOES CLINTON LIKE CHEESE-BURGERS?
MOMENTS LATER...
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, BEN. THOSE LUDDITES WERE PRETTY FANATICAL, AND THIS COULD GET NASTY.
I SURE FEEL BETTER NOW THAT THERE'S--
--TWO OF US!

DOWNTOWN: THE STANLEY AUDITORIUM.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... DR. ANTON SPERZEL!
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU, MY FELLOW SCIENTISTS, IS THE NEXT STEP IN VIRTUAL REALITY!
BY WEARING THIS HELMET, AN OPERATOR CAN "SEE" THROUGH SENSORS ATTACHED TO THE MARK-7 DIAGNOSTIC DRONE BEHIND ME.
HE OR SHE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO MANEUVER THAT VEHICLE, BY THOUGHT ALONE, INTO THE MOST HAZARDOUS OF ENVIRONMENTS; TOXIC WASTE, NUCLEAR MELTDOWN, EVEN AN ACTIVE VOLCANO!
ALL WITH A DEGREE OF SAFETY HERETOFORE ONLY DREAMT OF!
AND WHEN DOES THE DREAM BECOME A NIGHTMARE?
HOW LONG BEFORE SUCH "PROGRESS" IS USED TO CONTROL PEOPLE?
WHA-- ARE YOU MAD!?

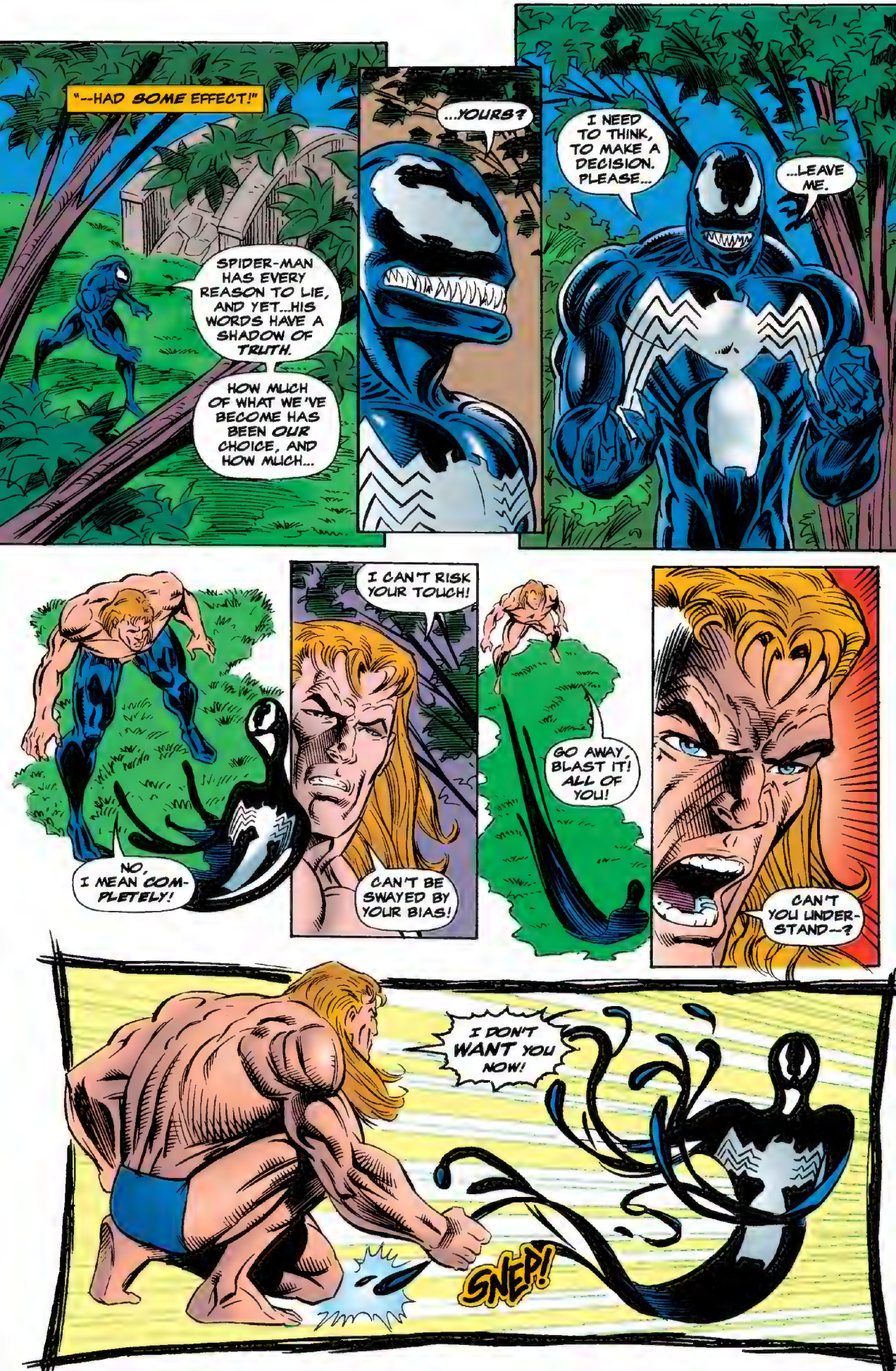
YEAH--VERY!
NOW GET--
KUNCH!
BACK!
OH, MY--!
MOVE THOSE CIVILIANS TO SAFETY, ON THE DOUBLE!
ME AN' THE WEBSLINGER'LL TAKE CARE O' THE REST!
TWO OF THEM? WELL...
...WE'RE NOT ALONE THIS TIME, EITHER!

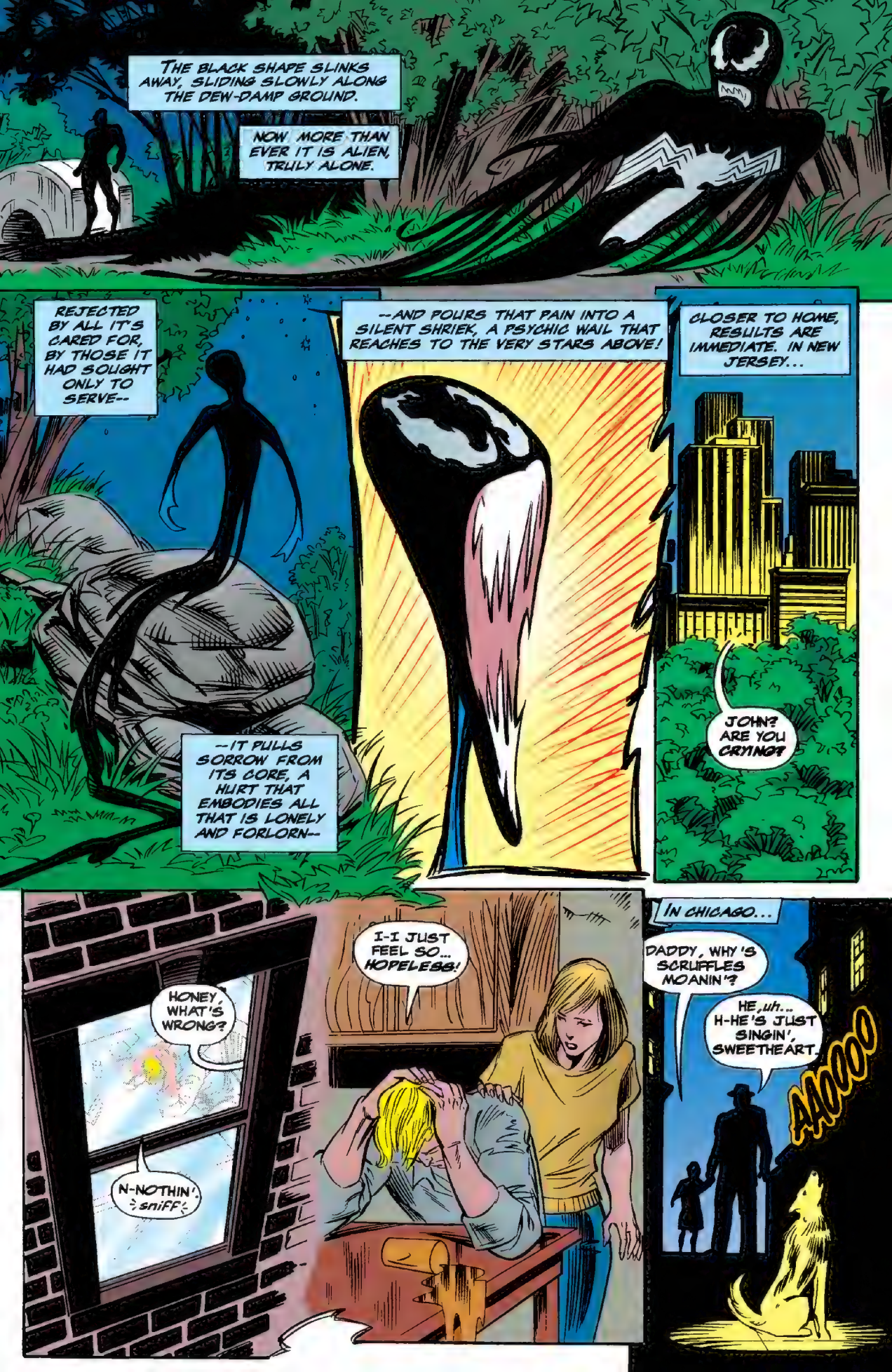

uh-oh! BAD-GUY'S PUT ON THE CYBERNETIC DERBY THAT EGG-HEAD WAS YAPPIN' ABOUT!
ACTIVATIN' THE ROBOT!
HRMMMMMMMMMMMM
THWIP!
NO SWEAT! I'LL JUST WEB UP THOSE SAW BLADES AND--
SRR-RR-RTCH!
--WATCH 'EM SHRED MY WEBBING LIKE DENTAL FLOSS?
YOU STICK TA THE PALOOKAS WITH GUNS, WALL-CRAWLER!
I'LL HANDLE THE MACHINE!
GO AHEAD, TWIST MY ARM...!

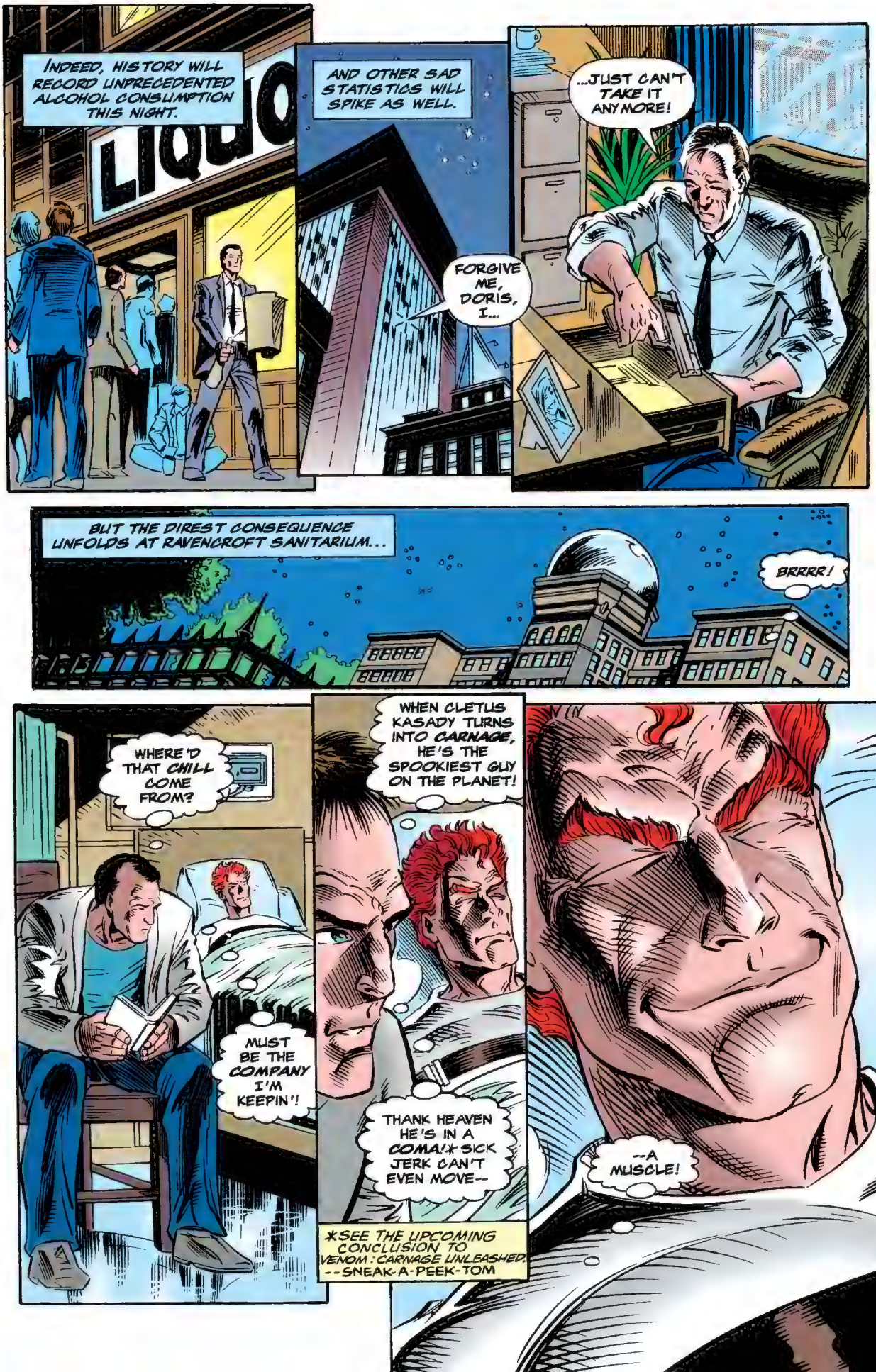
ALL I NEED IS TWO SECONDS TA--
--OW! BLADES MUST BE A NEW SYNTHETIC! CHIPPIN' EVEN MY ROCKY HIDE!
BETTER MAKE THAT THREE SECONDS...!
PERHAPS THE BEST WAY TO KILL THE SERPENT OF TECHNOLOGY, DR. SPERZEL--
--IS TO REMOVE ITS HEAD!
NOOOOOO--!
SO TELL US...
!?!
...WHAT PART OF "NO" DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
:gulp:

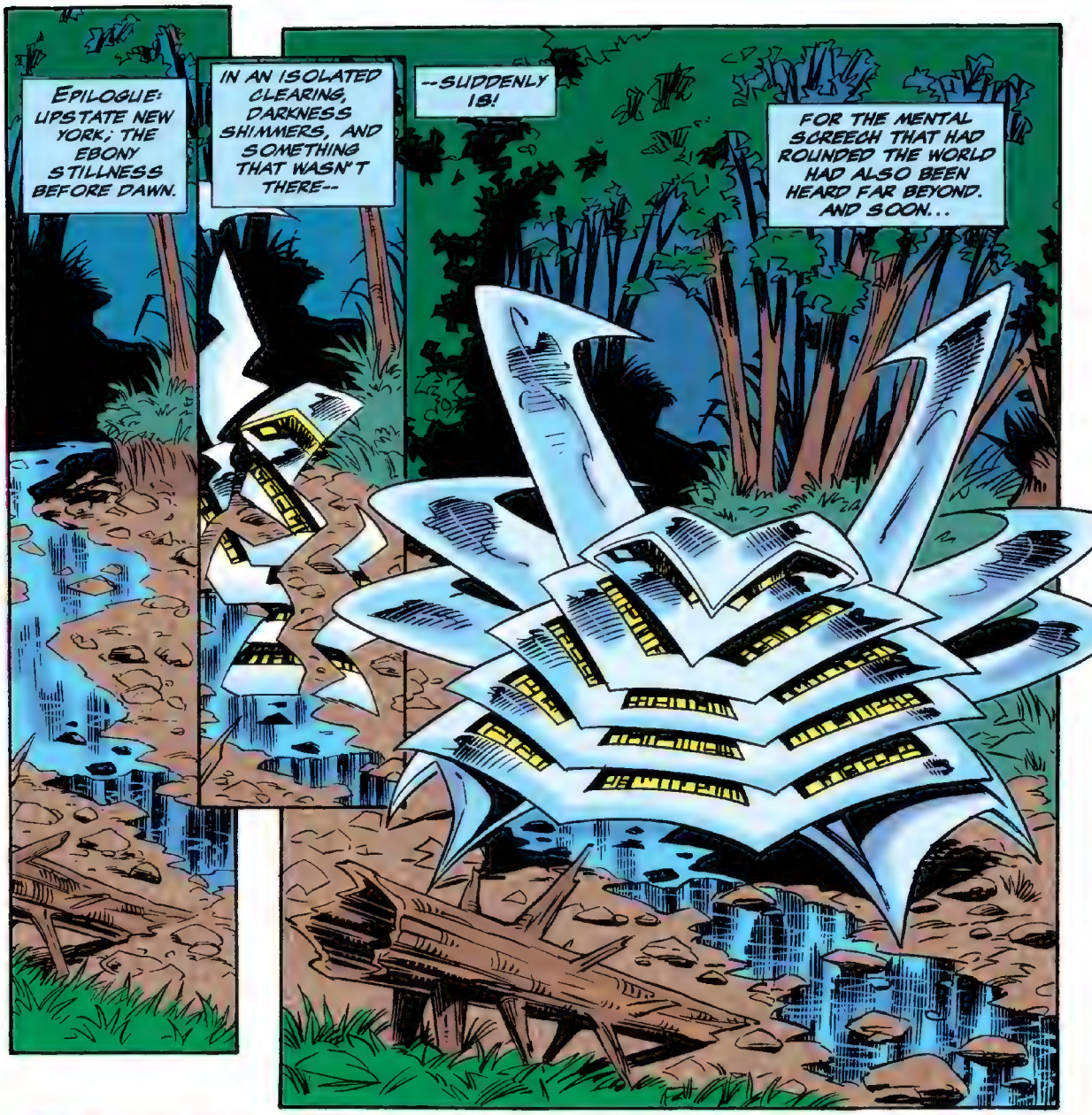
VENOM? BUT HOW--?
WE FOLLOWED YOU!
W-WE THOUGHT...IF WE COULD TALK...
HE'S UNSURE, BATTLING THE ALIEN'S INFLUENCE!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
EDDIE! LISTEN TO ME!
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT? THAT MONSTER YOU WEAR ISN'T EVEN HUMAN! HOW CAN YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S DOING TO YOU--
--HOW MUCH CONTROL IT HAS?
--IT'S REALLY YOUR COSTUME THAT'S INSANE?
HIT A NERVE!
THINK, EDDIE! WHAT IF YOU'RE REALLY THE VICTIM! THE INNOCENT!
WHAT IF--
HE'S STOPPED COLD!

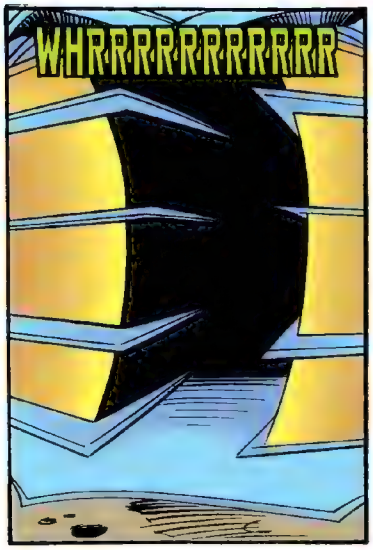
AND WITHOUT VENOM TO WORRY ABOUT, I CAN FINISH OFF THESE LAST TECHNOPHOBES!
hnmf
SPIDEY BOPPED THE GOON WITH THE CONTROL HELMET!
ROBOT'S HESITATIN'!
'BOT?
MEET--
--FIST!
KABRASH!
LUDDITE SCREAMED! FEEDBACK MUST'VE OVERHEATED THE HELMET CIRCUITS!
HE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS...
...BUT VENOM USED THE DISTRACTION TO ESCAPE!
LOOKING FOR HIM WOULD BE USELESS.
I CAN ONLY HOPE MY PSYCHOLOGICAL "RIGHT CROSS"--


"--HAD SOME EFFECT!"
SPIDER-MAN HAS EVERY REASON TO LIE, AND YET...HIS WORDS HAVE A SHADOW OF TRUTH.
HOW MUCH OF WHAT WE'VE BECOME HAS BEEN OUR CHOICE, AND HOW MUCH...
...YOURS?
I NEED TO THINK, TO MAKE A DECISION. PLEASE...
...LEAVE ME.
NO, I MEAN COMPLETELY!
I CAN'T RISK YOUR TOUCH!
CAN'T BE SWAYED BY YOUR BIAS!
GO AWAY, BLAST IT! ALL OF YOU!
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND--?
I DON'T WANT YOU NOW!
SNEP!

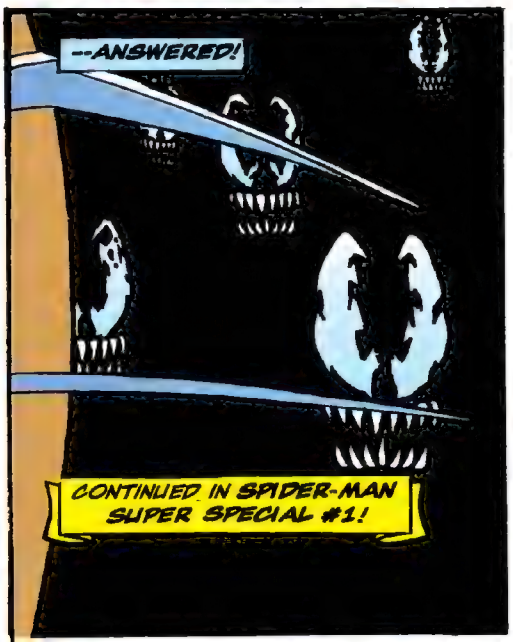

THE BLACK SHAPE SLINKS AWAY, SLIDING SLOWLY ALONG THE DEW-DAMP GROUND.
NOW MORE THAN EVER IT IS ALIEN, TRULY ALONE.
REJECTED BY ALL IT'S CARED FOR, BY THOSE IT HAD SOUGHT ONLY TO SERVE--
--AND POURS THAT PAIN INTO A SILENT SHRIEK, A PSYCHIC WAIL THAT REACHES TO THE VERY STARS ABOVE!
CLOSER TO HOME, RESULTS ARE IMMEDIATE. IN NEW JERSEY...
JOHN? ARE YOU CRYING?
--IT PULLS SORROW FROM ITS CORE, A HURT THAT EMBODIES ALL THAT IS LONELY AND FORLORN--
HONEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
N-NOTHIN', sniff
I-I JUST FEEL SO... HOPELESS!
IN CHICAGO...
DADDY, WHY'S SCRUFFLES MOANIN'?
HE, uh... H-HE'S JUST SINGIN', SWEETHEART.
AAOOO

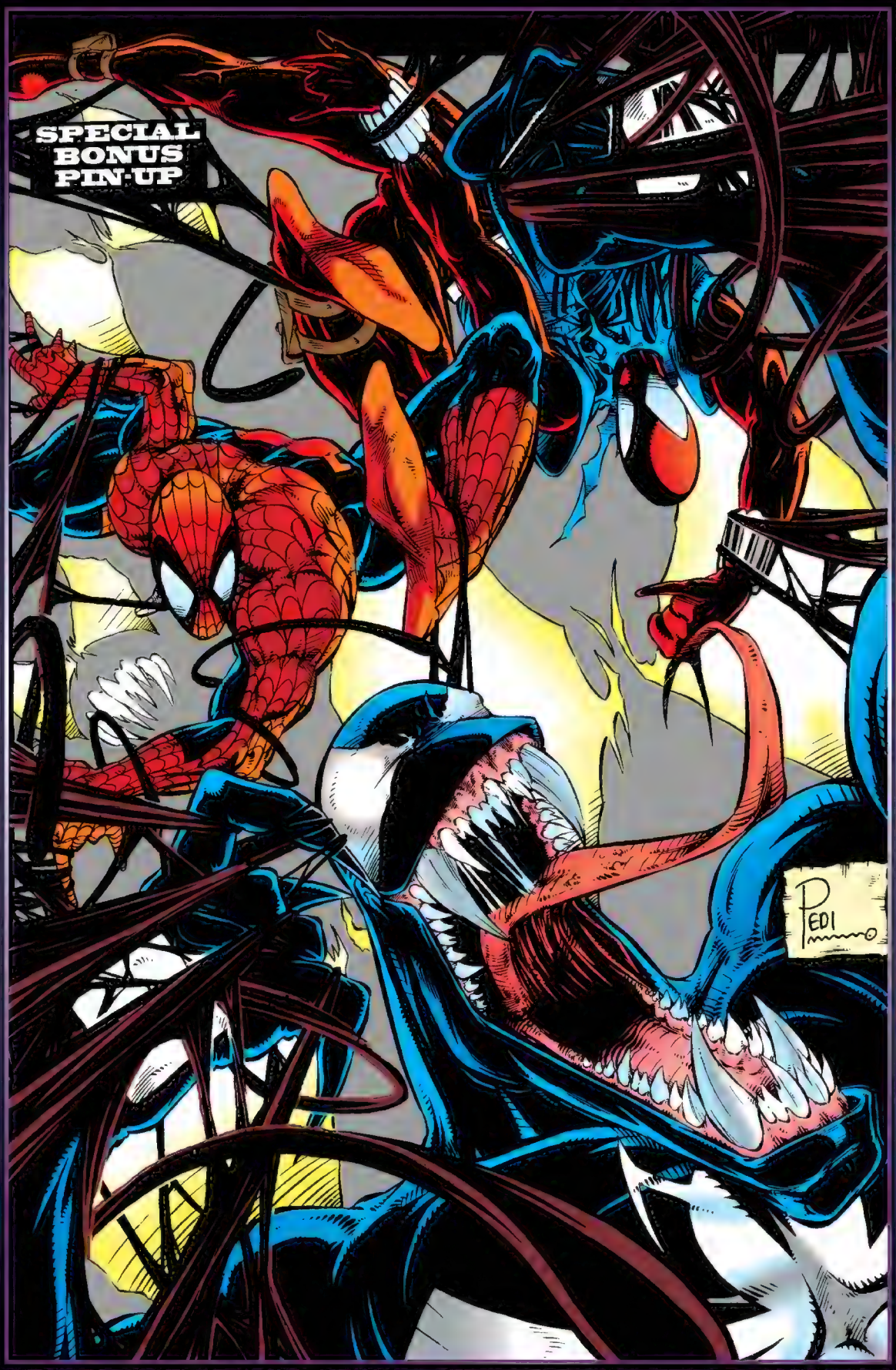

INDEED, HISTORY WILL RECORD UNPRECEDENTED ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION THIS NIGHT.
LIQU
AND OTHER SAD STATISTICS WILL SPIKE AS WELL.
FORGIVE ME, DORIS, I...
...JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
BUT THE DIREST CONSEQUENCE UNFOLDS AT RAVENCROFT SANITARIUM...
BRRRR!
WHERE'D THAT CHILL COME FROM?
MUST BE THE COMPANY I'M KEEPIN'!
WHEN CLETUS KASADY TURNS INTO CARNAGE, HE'S THE SPOOKIEST GUY ON THE PLANET!
THANK HEAVEN HE'S IN A COMA!* SICK JERK CAN'T EVEN MOVE--
--A MUSCLE!
*SEE THE UPCOMING CONCLUSION TO VENOM: CARNAGE UNLEASHED. --SNEAK-A-PEEK-TOM


EPILOGUE: UPSTATE NEW YORK; THE EBONY STILLNESS BEFORE DAWN.
IN AN ISOLATED CLEARING, DARKNESS SHIMMERS, AND SOMETHING THAT WASN'T THERE--
--SUDDENLY IS!
FOR THE MENTAL SCREECH THAT HAD ROUNDED THE WORLD HAD ALSO BEEN HEARD FAR BEYOND. AND SOON...


WHRRRRRRRRRR

...THAT CRY WILL BE--


--ANSWERED!
CONTINUED IN SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL #1!

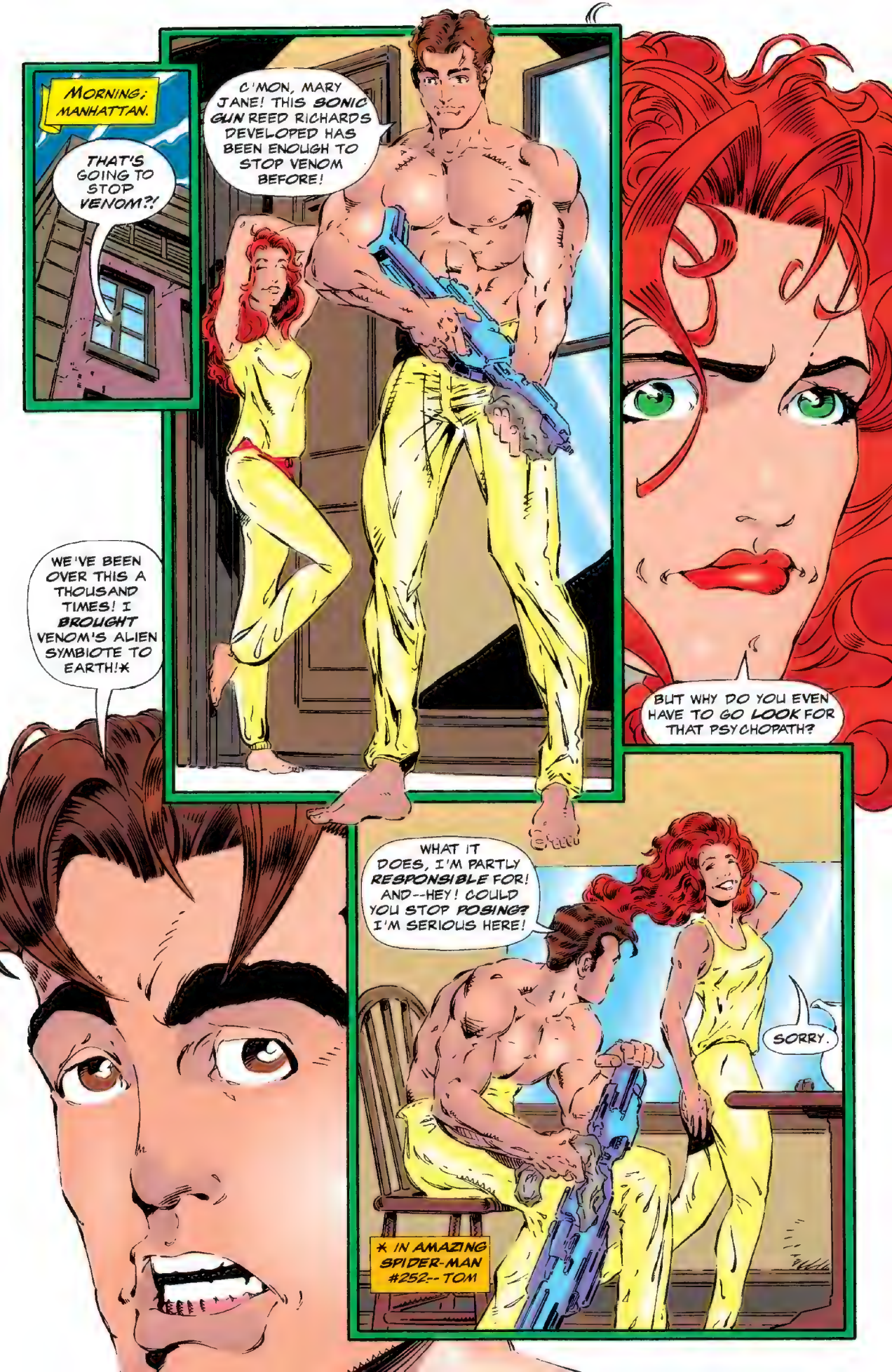


Spider-Man Super Special
pinup by **Pedi**

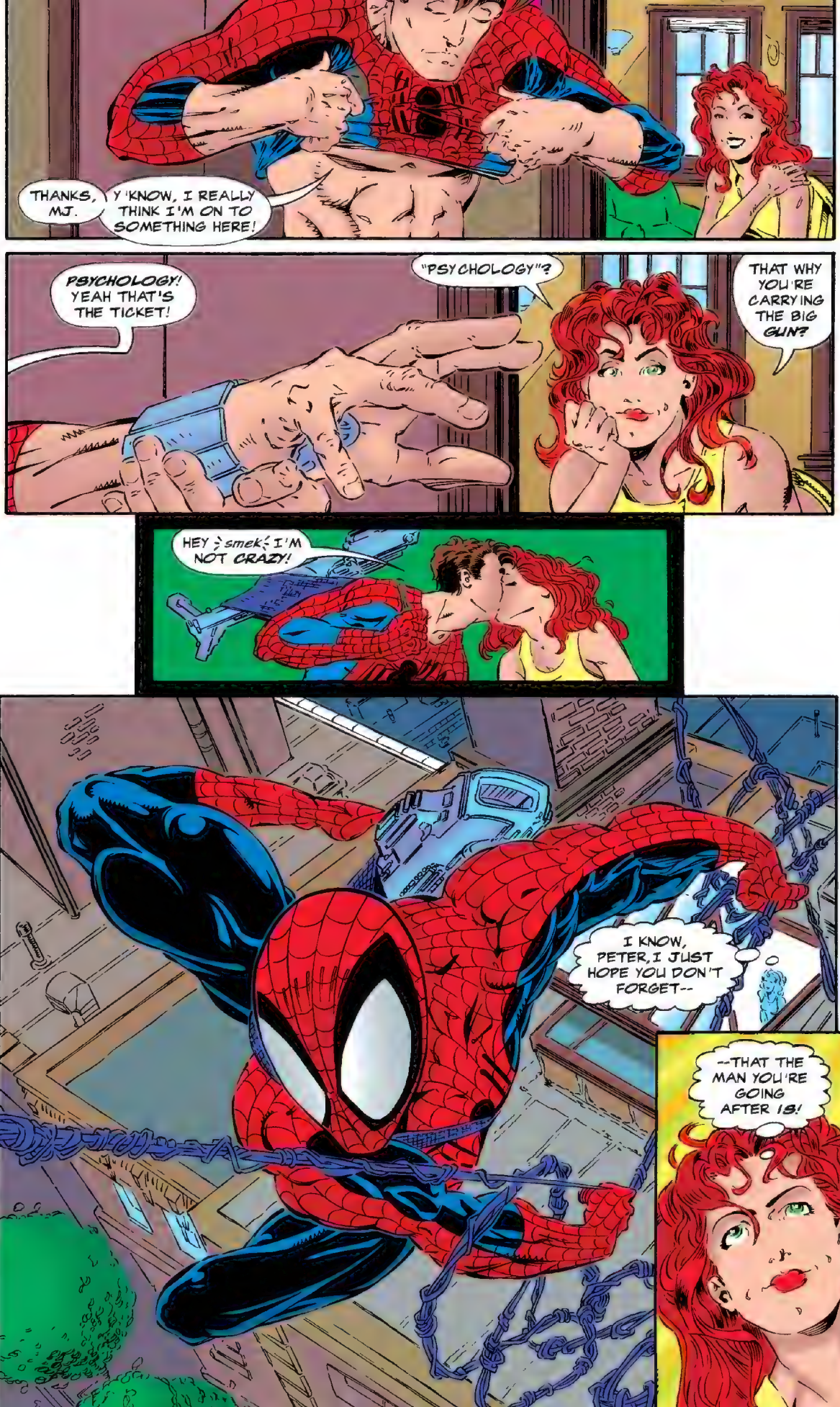
MARVEL COMICS
PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES
Part 2 of Four
SPIDER-MAN
SUPER SPECIAL
#1
1995
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ST. PIERRE

LONG ISLAND.
THE HOUR BEFORE DAWN.
SCIEN
EXPO
MAY 15-20
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT IN, FELLA, BUT WE WERE WARNED TO WATCH FOR TERRORISTS!
PLEASE--!
"PLEASE"? YOU THINK THAT MEANS JACK?
YOU'RE GONNA BE ONE POLITE CORPSE, PAL!
BDAM! BDAM!
SHLP
SHLP
SHLP
WHAT THE--?!
PLEASE...
GHHLLGK--!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
...HELP ME!!
PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES CHAPTER TWO:
LURKERS!
DAVID MICHELINIE writer
JOE St. PIERRE penciler
GREG ADAMS inker
OAKLEY / NJQ letterers
TOM SMITH colorist
TOM BREVOORT editor
DANNY FINGEROTH group editor
BOB BUDIANSKY editor in chief

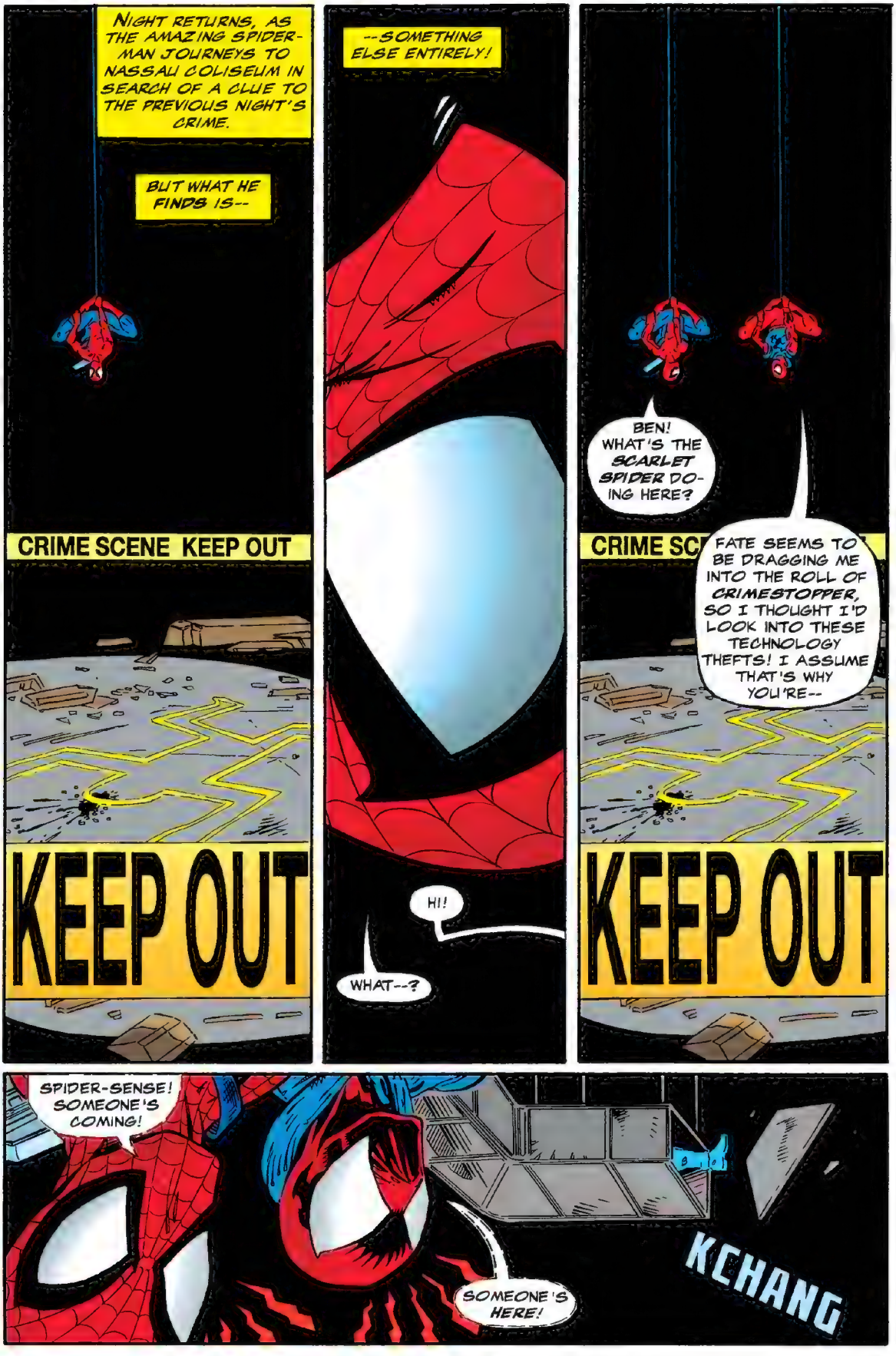

MORNING; MANHATTAN.
THAT'S GOING TO STOP VENOM?!
C'MON, MARY JANE! THIS SONIC GUN REED RICHARDS DEVELOPED HAS BEEN ENOUGH TO STOP VENOM BEFORE!
BUT WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO GO LOOK FOR THAT PSYCHOPATH?
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS A THOUSAND TIMES! I BROUGHT VENOM'S ALIEN SYMBIOTE TO EARTH!*
WHAT IT DOES, I'M PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR! AND--HEY! COULD YOU STOP POSING? I'M SERIOUS HERE!
SORRY.
* IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #252-- TOM

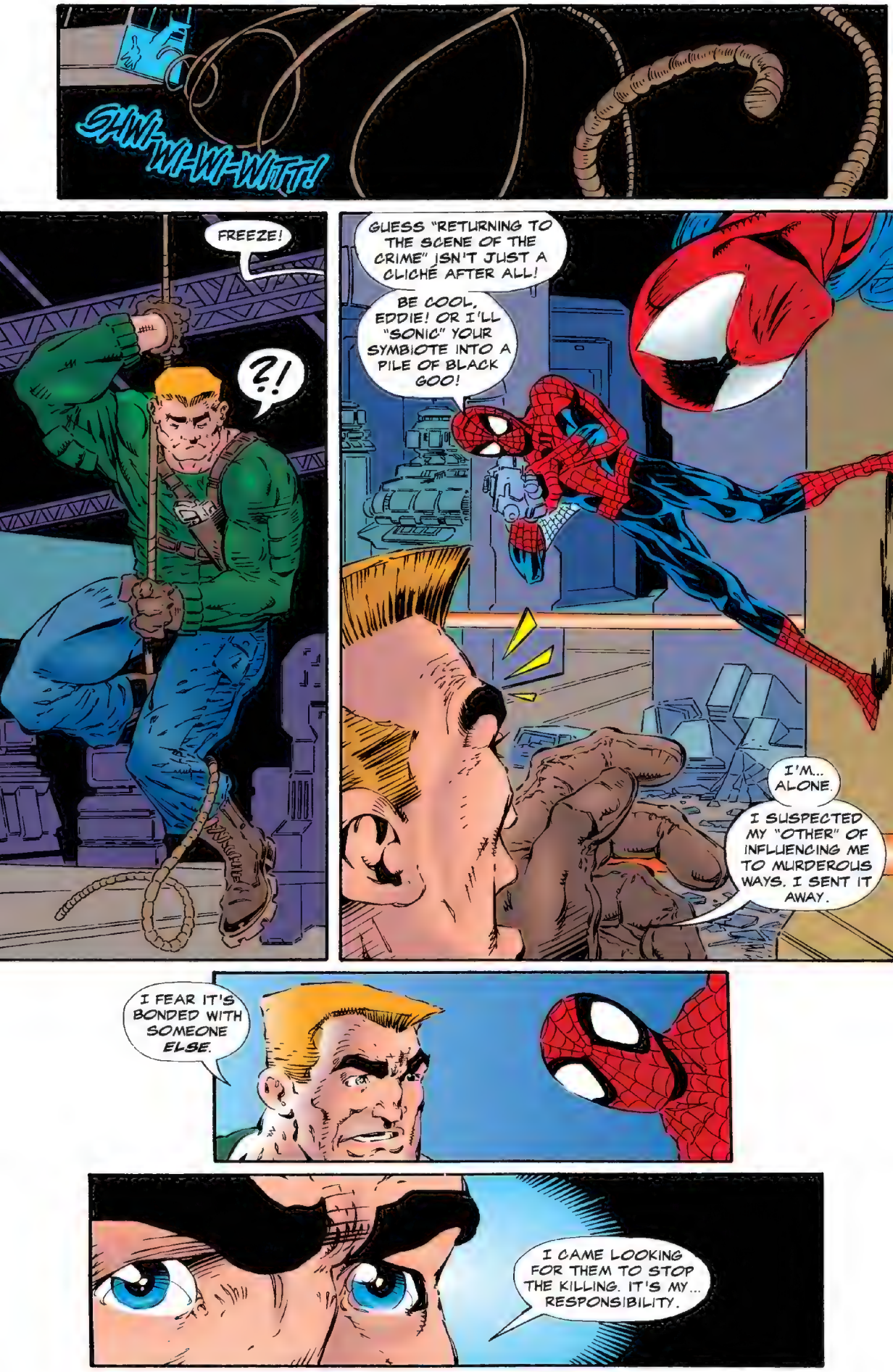
THERE'VE BEEN SEVERAL HIGH-TECH THEFTS LATELY, LIKE THE ONE AT THAT SCIENCE EXPO LAST NIGHT.
AND REPORTS HINT THAT THE CULPRIT COULD BE VENOM!
BUT A FEW DAYS AGO,* I SAW SOMETHING SPOOKY: EDDIE BROCK AND THE SYMBIOTE WERE ARGUING, AT ODDS!
IF I CAN EXPLOIT THAT GAP, EVEN WIDEN IT, MAYBE I CAN GET EDDIE TO CHOOSE NOT TO BE VENOM ANY MORE!
* IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL #1-- TOM
WELL, IF YOU HAVE TO GO, BETTER PUT THIS ON.
DON'T WANT TO SEE MY HUSBAND ON THE NOON NEWS IN HIS JAMMIES!

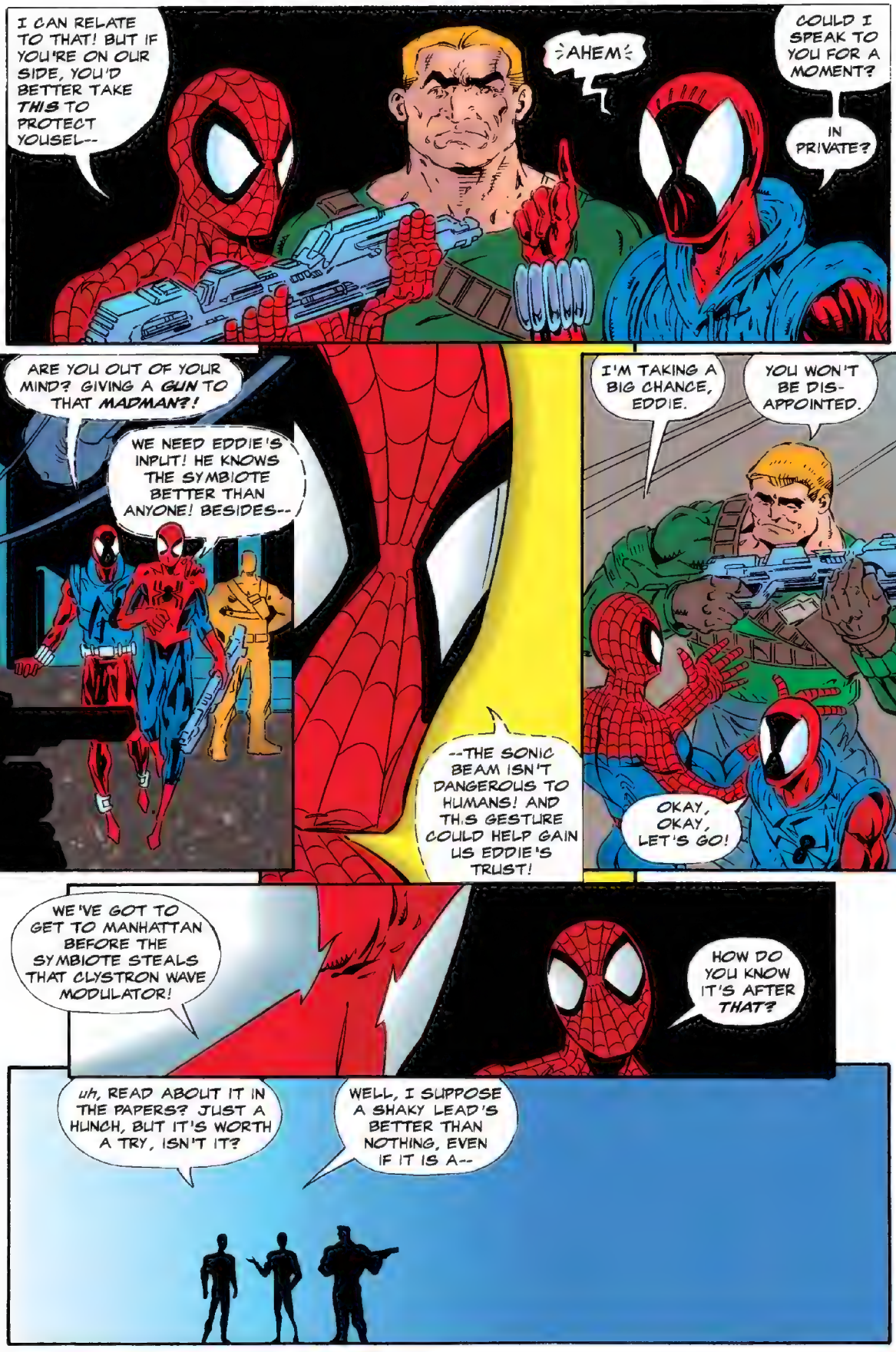

THANKS, MJ.
Y'KNOW, I REALLY THINK I'M ON TO SOMETHING HERE!
PSYCHOLOGY! YEAH THAT'S THE TICKET!
"PSYCHOLOGY"?
THAT WHY YOU'RE CARRYING THE BIG GUN?
HEY ;smek; I'M NOT CRAZY!
I KNOW, PETER, I JUST HOPE YOU DON'T FORGET--
--THAT THE MAN YOU'RE GOING AFTER IS!

AFTERNOON; RAVENCROFT SANITARIUM.
BREET BREET BREET
PANIC ALARM! TRIGGERED BY--
--OH LORD! SEAL THE BUILDING!
DR. WINTERS! WHAT--?
HE MOVED.
HE--? COME NOW, DOCTOR! CLETUS KASADY'S ABOUT AS ACTIVE AS A LUMP OF BORON!
HE'S BEEN IN AN IRREVERSIBLE COMA FOR DAYS!*
* SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF VENOM: CARNAGE UNLEASHED, TO BE EXACT!--TOM
THEN WHY DID MOTION SENSORS TRIP THE AUTO-ALARMS?
AUTOMATIC RESPONSE--MUSCLE SPASMS!
BUT...
...CAN WE TAKE THAT RISK? WE BOTH KNOW ALL TOO WELL--
--WHAT KASADY IS--
--INSIDE!

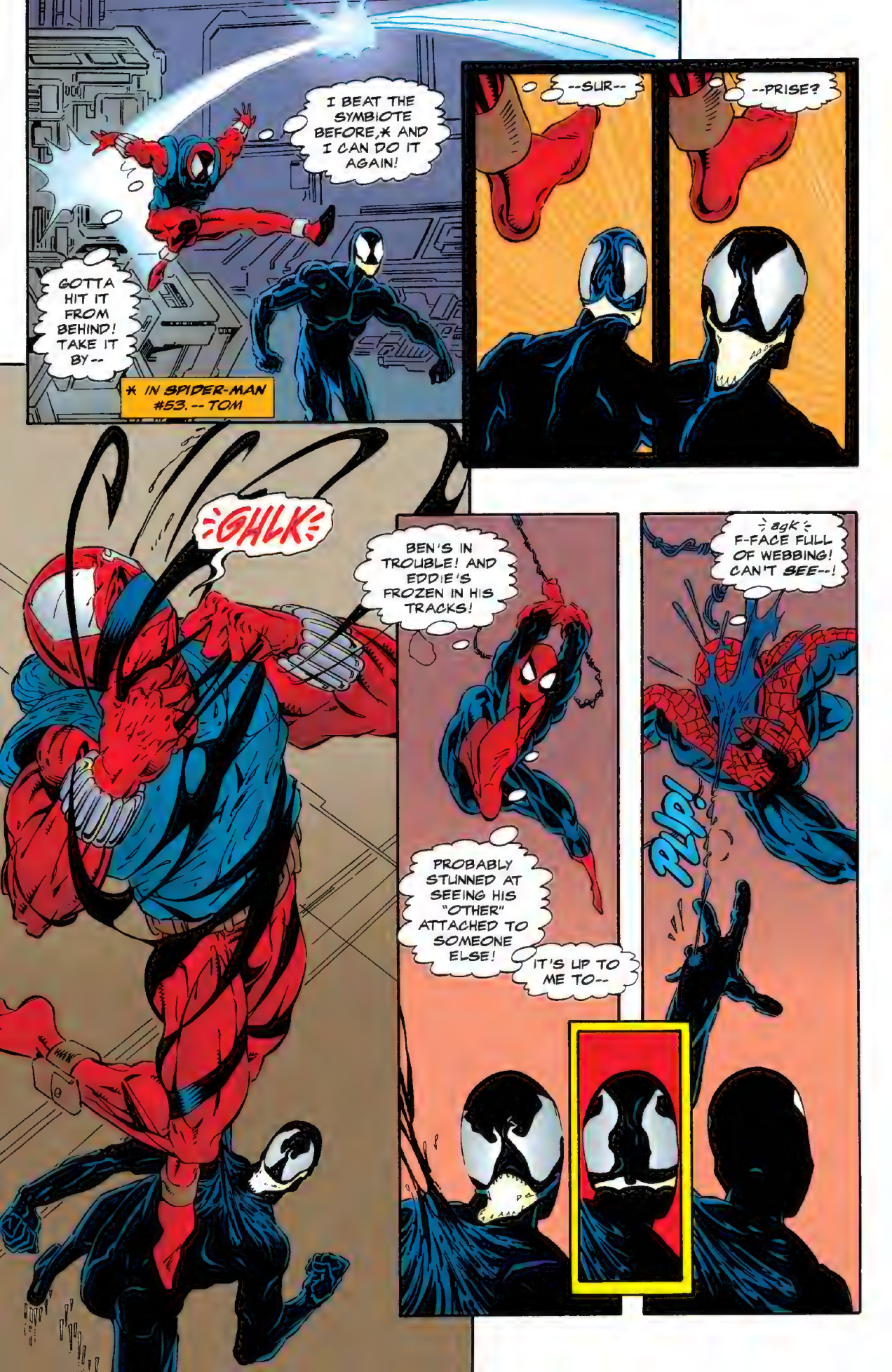
"HE HAS A MONSTER IN HIS BLOOD! IF IT GETS OUT, IF HE TURNS INTO THE CREATURE CALLED CARNAGE AGAIN--"
--HE'LL SLAUGHTER US ALL!
HE'D KILL EVERY SOUL IN THIS BUILDING IN A--
:gasp:
HE WINKED! THEO, H-H-HE WINKED AT ME!
GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, DOCTOR! THE MAN'S A TURNIP!
HE CAN'T WINK AT ANYONE!
ARE YOU NUTS?
AS GOD IS MY WITNESS, THEO...
...I HOPE SO!


NIGHT RETURNS, AS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN JOURNEYS TO NASSAU COLISEUM IN SEARCH OF A CLUE TO THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S CRIME.
BUT WHAT HE FINDS IS--
CRIME SCENE KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT
--SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY!
HI!
WHAT--?
BEN! WHAT'S THE SCARLET SPIDER DOING HERE?
CRIME SC
FATE SEEMS TO BE DRAGGING ME INTO THE ROLL OF CRIMESTOPPER, SO I THOUGHT I'D LOOK INTO THESE TECHNOLOGY THEFTS! I ASSUME THAT'S WHY YOU'RE--
KEEP OUT
SPIDER-SENSE! SOMEONE'S COMING!
SOMEONE'S HERE!
KCHANG

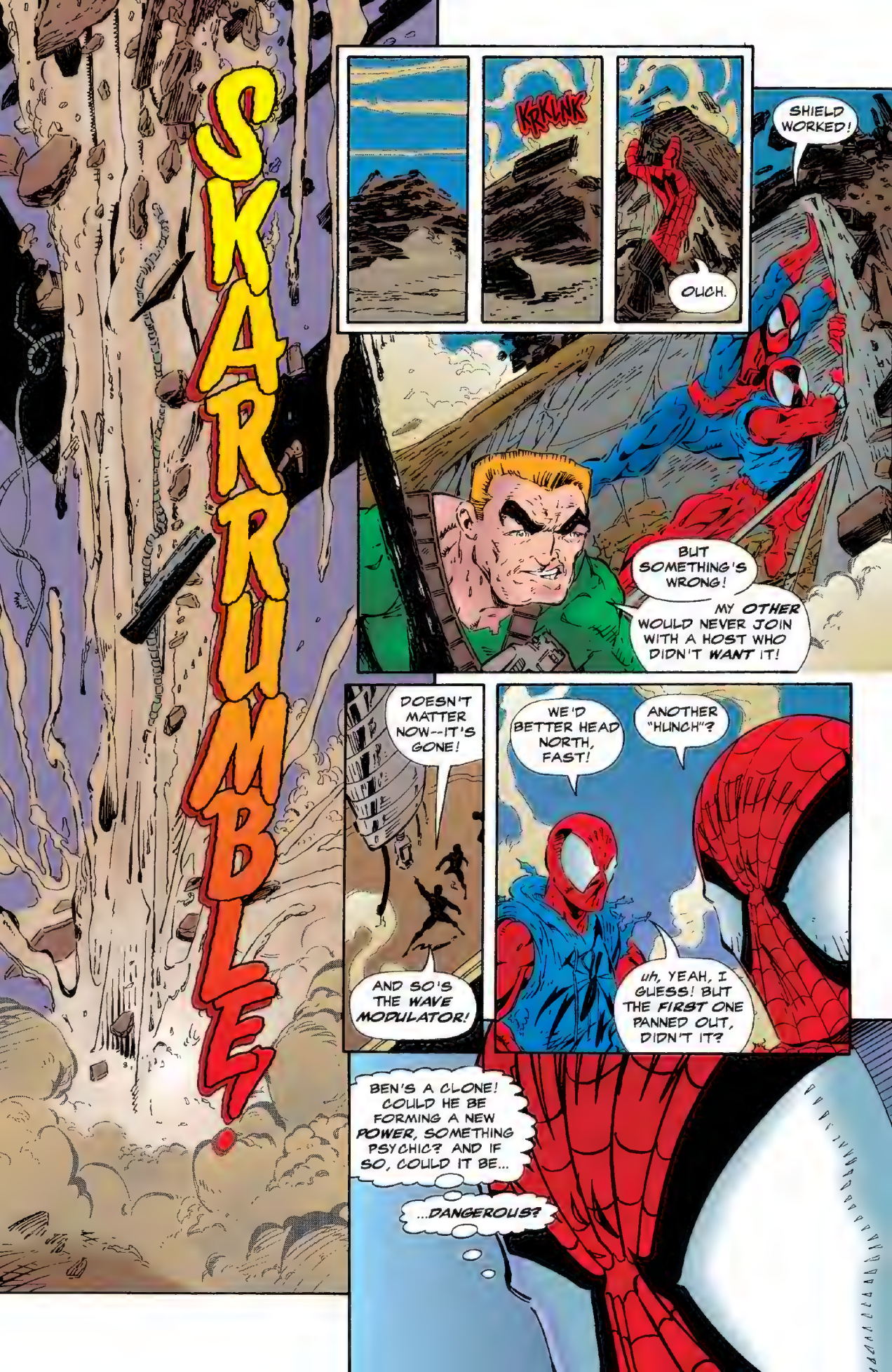

SHWI-WI-WITT!
FREEZE!
?!
GUESS "RETURNING TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME" ISN'T JUST A CLICHÉ AFTER ALL!
BE COOL, EDDIE! OR I'LL "SONIC" YOUR SYMBIOTE INTO A PILE OF BLACK GOO!
I'M... ALONE.
I SUSPECTED MY "OTHER" OF INFLUENCING ME TO MURDEROUS WAYS. I SENT IT AWAY.
I FEAR IT'S BONDED WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
I CAME LOOKING FOR THEM TO STOP THE KILLING. IT'S MY... RESPONSIBILITY.


I CAN RELATE TO THAT! BUT IF YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE, YOU'D BETTER TAKE THIS TO PROTECT YOUSEL--
AHEM
COULD I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?
IN PRIVATE?
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? GIVING A GUN TO THAT MADMAN?!
WE NEED EDDIE'S INPUT! HE KNOWS THE SYMBIOTE BETTER THAN ANYONE! BESIDES--
--THE SONIC BEAM ISN'T DANGEROUS TO HUMANS! AND THIS GESTURE COULD HELP GAIN US EDDIE'S TRUST!
I'M TAKING A BIG CHANCE, EDDIE.
YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.
OKAY, OKAY, LET'S GO!
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO MANHATTAN BEFORE THE SYMBIOTE STEALS THAT CLYSTRON WAVE MODULATOR!
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S AFTER THAT?
uh, READ ABOUT IT IN THE PAPERS? JUST A HUNCH, BUT IT'S WORTH A TRY, ISN'T IT?
WELL, I SUPPOSE A SHAKY LEAD'S BETTER THAN NOTHING, EVEN IF IT IS A--

"--WILD GOOSE CHASE!"
THIS THE LAB WHERE YOU SAW THE MODULATOR?*
YEAH!
* IN ASM SUPER SIZE SPECIAL #1.
GUESS IT'S TIME TO REVISE MY DEFINITION OF "GOOSE CHASE"...!
BODIES, AND PIECES OF BODIES! BUT WHERE--
OH.
"THERE!"
AND IT'S ALREADY GOT THE WAVE BOOSTER
NOT YET! THAT'S THE CLYSTRON MODULATOR!
THAT'S A SPIDER SQUASHER!
SKERMASH!


I BEAT THE SYMBIOTE BEFORE,* AND I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
GOTTA HIT IT FROM BEHIND! TAKE IT BY--
* IN SPIDER-MAN #53. -- TOM
--SUR--
--PRISE?
GHLK
BEN'S IN TROUBLE! AND EDDIE'S FROZEN IN HIS TRACKS!
PROBABLY STUNNED AT SEEING HIS "OTHER" ATTACHED TO SOMEONE ELSE!
IT'S UP TO ME TO--
÷ agk ÷ F-FACE FULL OF WEBBING! CAN'T SEE--!
PLIP!

BACK OFF!
SHREEEEE
HELP ME! P-PLEASE! AND IF YOU CAN'T HELP--
--THEN KILL ME! I BEG YOU!
hnh--?
D-DON'T LET IT TAKE ME BACK!
SYMBIOTE SLINGING EDDIE TOWARD THAT WALL--!
GOT--
--HIM!
KRRNCH
IT RIPPED OUT A SUPPORT BEAM! CEILING COMING DOWN! GOTTA SPIN A WEB SHIELD--!
EDDIE! OVER HERE!

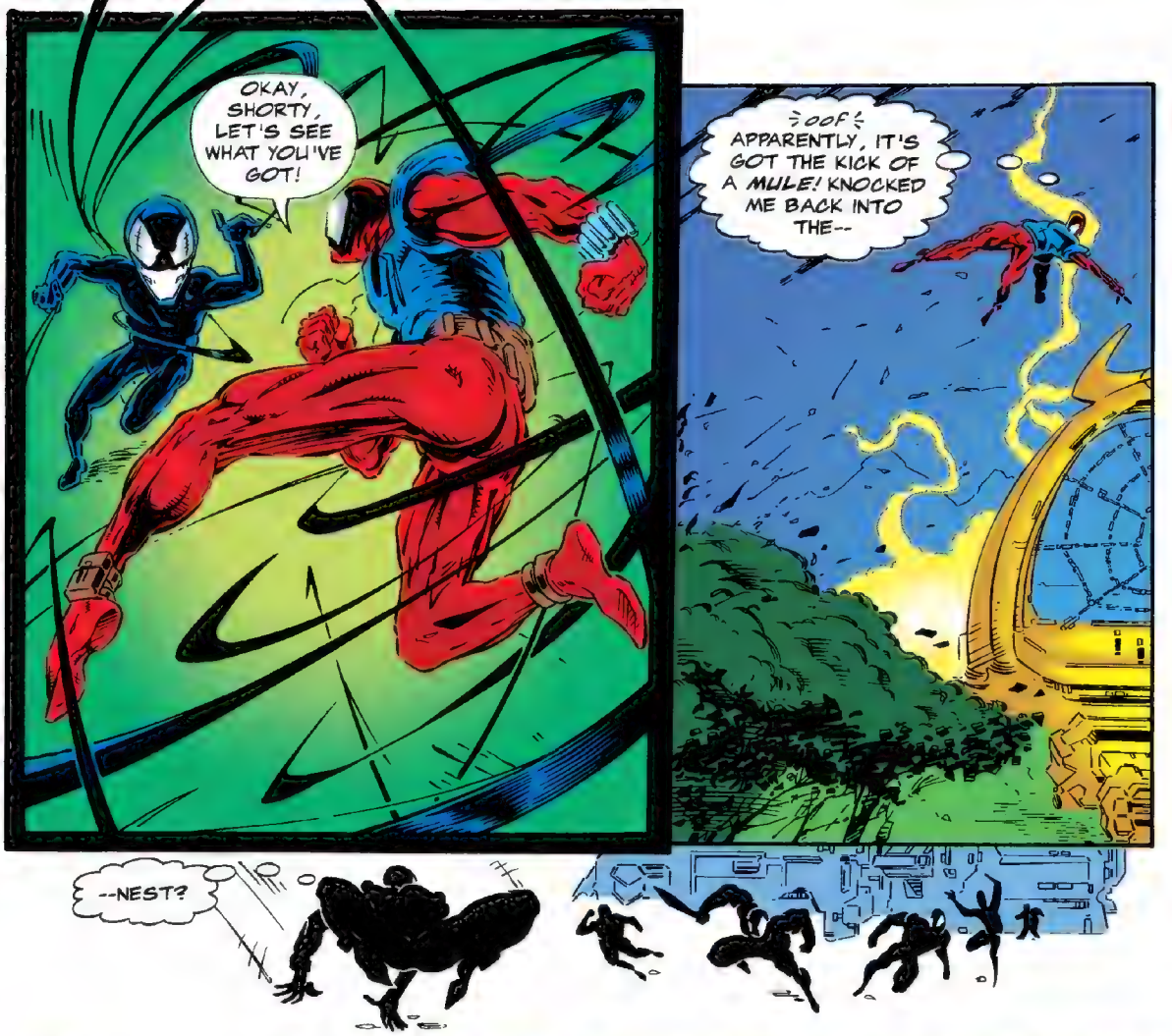

SKARRUMBLE
KRKLNK
OUCH.
SHIELD WORKED!
BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG!
MY OTHER WOULD NEVER JOIN WITH A HOST WHO DIDN'T WANT IT!
DOESN'T MATTER NOW--IT'S GONE!
AND SO'S THE WAVE MODULATOR!
WE'D BETTER HEAD NORTH, FAST!
ANOTHER "HUNCH"?
uh, YEAH, I GUESS! BUT THE FIRST ONE PANNED OUT, DIDN'T IT?
BEN'S A CLONE! COULD HE BE FORMING A NEW POWER, SOMETHING PSYCHIC? AND IF SO, COULD IT BE...
...DANGEROUS?

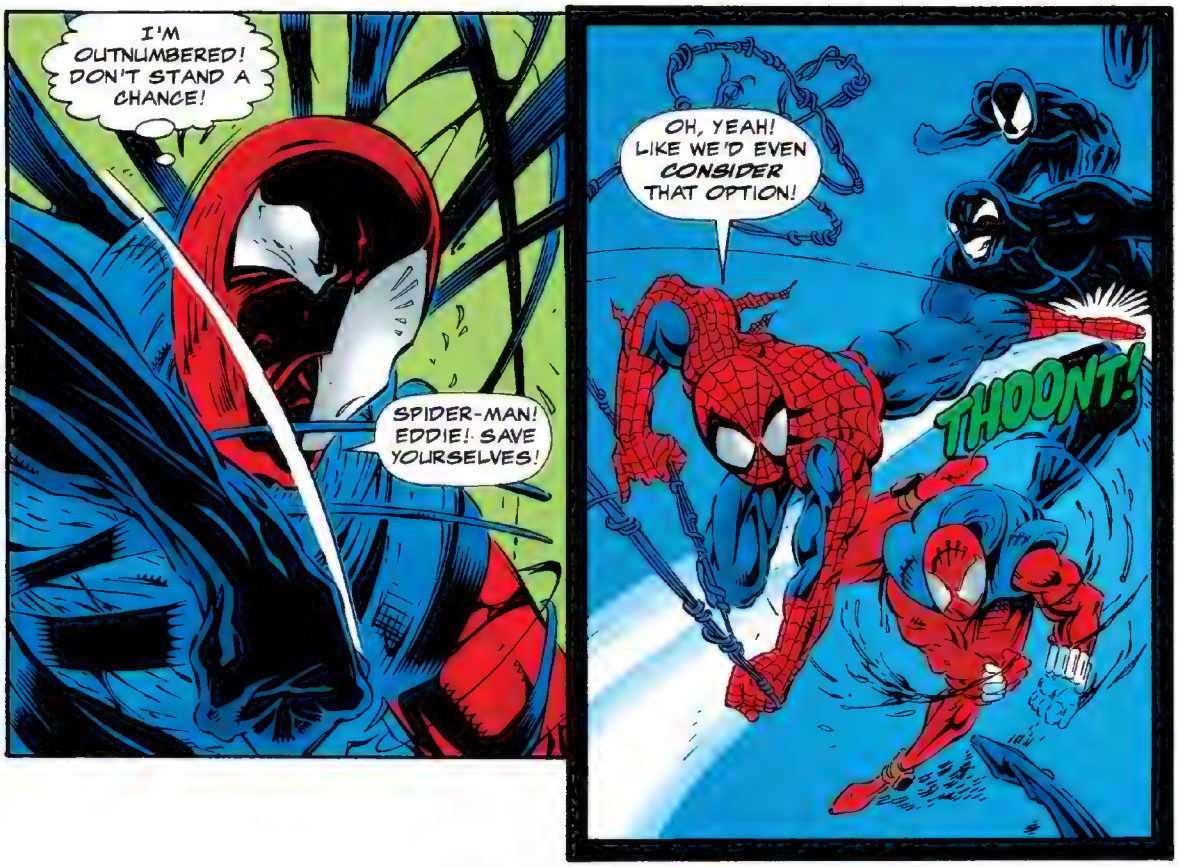
MIDTOWN.
BLOOMINGDALE'S
I WON'T THINK ABOUT THE DANGER! I WON'T!
I REFUSE TO LET WORRY RULE MY LIFE! PETER WILL BE FINE!
AND WHEN HE COMES HOME, I'M GOING TO BE SMILING! MAYBE I'LL EVEN MODEL A NEW MATERNITY OUTFIT!
HONEY, THAT'S ADORABLE!
YOUR FIRST?
uh-huh.
I ENVY YOU. PAULIE AND I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A COUPLE O' RUGRATS!
THEN WHY--?
PAULIE'S A BEAT COP-- PUTS HIS LIFE ON THE LINE EVERY TIME HE GOES TO WORK! WE FIGURED THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO A KID.
BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR FOLKS WHO DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT KINDA STUFF! YOU'RE SO LUCKY!
OH YEAH. "MARY JANE, THE HUMAN RABBIT'S FOOT". THAT'S ME...!

DAWN; UPSTATE NEW YORK--
--WHERE A RENTED 4-BY-4 REACHES THE END OF THE ROAD, FORCING ITS OCCUPANTS TO CONTINUE ON FOOT.
FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING, THAT IS!
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE! I CAN FEEL IT!
HOW CLOSE, BEN?
:ulp: M-MAYBE A LOT CLOSER THAN WE SHOULD BE!
LOOK!

SYMBIOTES! AT LEAST A DOZEN OF THEM! BUT WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?
MORE IMPORTANT, WHAT ARE THEY DOING? THEY'VE HOOKED THE CLYSTRON MODULATOR TO THAT BIG MACHINE! SINCE THE MODULATOR'S DESIGNED TO BOOST ENERGY--
--THAT COULD MEAN THEY'RE USING IT TO POWER UP THE MECHANISM!

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG!
THE ALIEN THAT STOLE THE MODULATOR, THAT FORCED ITSELF ON ITS HOST--
--IT WAS ONE OF THESE!
BUT IF THAT WAS A NEW SYMBIOTE...
...WHERE'S MY OTHER?
-WAUGH-
SENTRIES! MUST'VE USED THEIR CAMOU-FLAGE ABILITIES TO BLEND IN WITH THE TREES!
FOUL PRETENDER!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
SHREEEEEEE


OKAY, SHORTY, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
OOF! APPARENTLY, IT'S GOT THE KICK OF A MULE! KNOCKED ME BACK INTO THE--
--NEST?


I'M OUTNUMBERED! DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
SPIDER-MAN! EDDIE! SAVE YOURSELVES!
OH, YEAH! LIKE WE'D EVEN CONSIDER THAT OPTION!
THOONT!

TRY NOT TO HURT THEM, BEN! THEY'RE INNOCENT HUMANS "INSIDE"!

I KNOW! BUT HOW-- WAITASEC!

IMPACT WEBBING! MAYBE I CAN TIE THEM UP TIGHT!

POK

NUTS! THAT LIVING SMILEY-FACE IS *ABSORBING* THE WEB CORDS!

AT LEAST *EDDIE'S* DOING ALL RIGHT! THE SONIC GUN IS KEEPING THE SYMBIOTES AWAY!

BUT I DON'T *WANT* THEM TO STAY AWAY! I WANT TO HURT THEM!

KILL THEM!

THEY MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE SACRED *BONDING!* I-- *eh?*

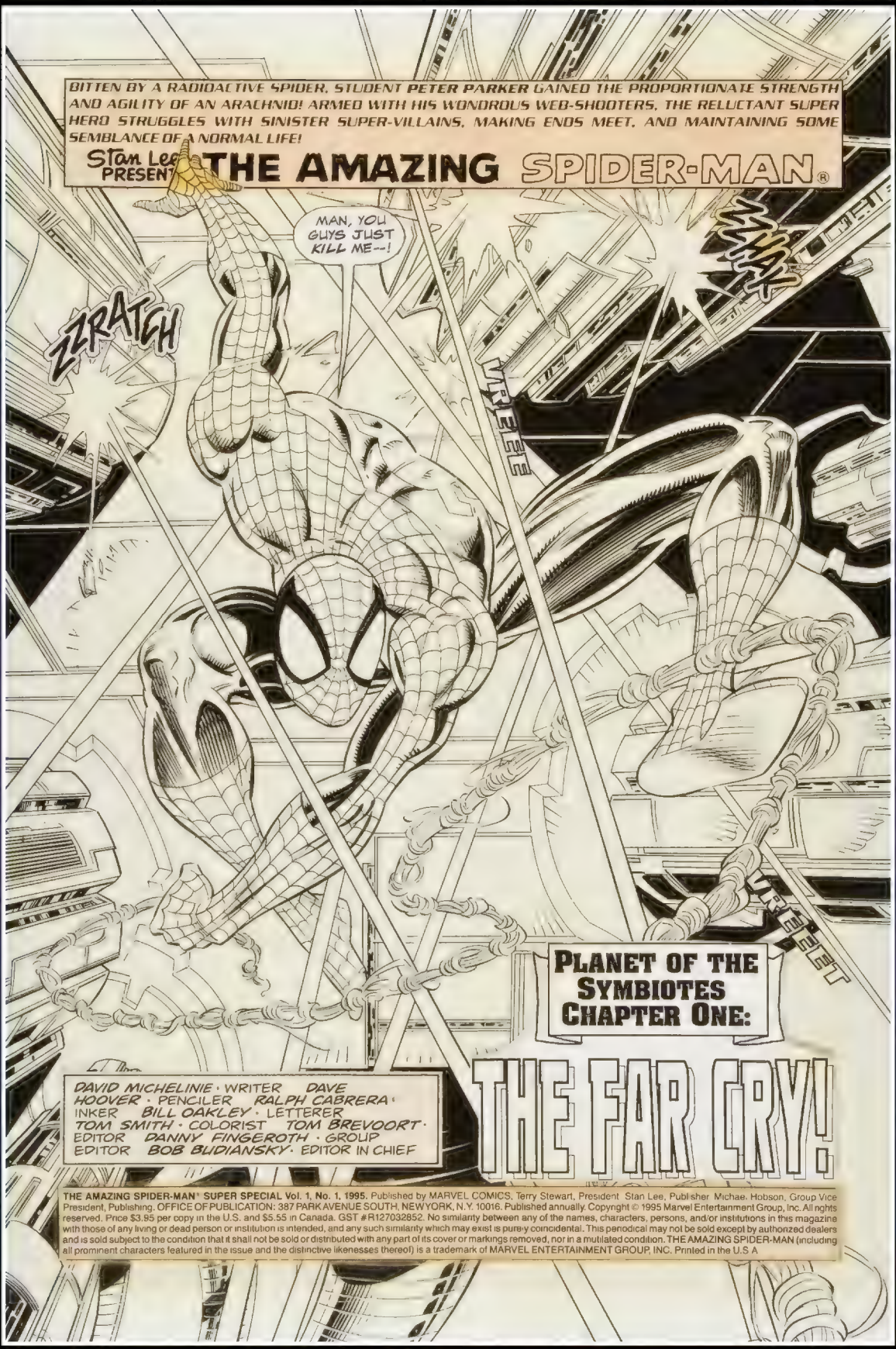
ALIEN SNUCK UP FROM BEHIND, TRYING TO WRAP AROUND ME!

GET... *OFF!*

SQWREEE

HOLY--! B-BROCK TURNED THE SONIC BLASTER...ON *HIMSELF?!?*

THK
SPIDER-SENSE! THEY'VE ACTIVATED THE MACHINE!
IDIOT! YOU'RE TUMBLING INTO MY LINE OF--
--ONE OF THEM!
EDDIE, LOOK OUT! IT'S GOT US! TRYING TO PULL US ALL INTO THE--
--FIRE?
MY GOD! Y-YOU'RE--
"--MACHINE!"
AND THEN... SILENCE.
CONTINUED IN VENOM SUPER SPECIAL #1!



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Amazing Spider-Man Super Special
page 1 art by **Dave Hoover** & **Ralph Cabrera**

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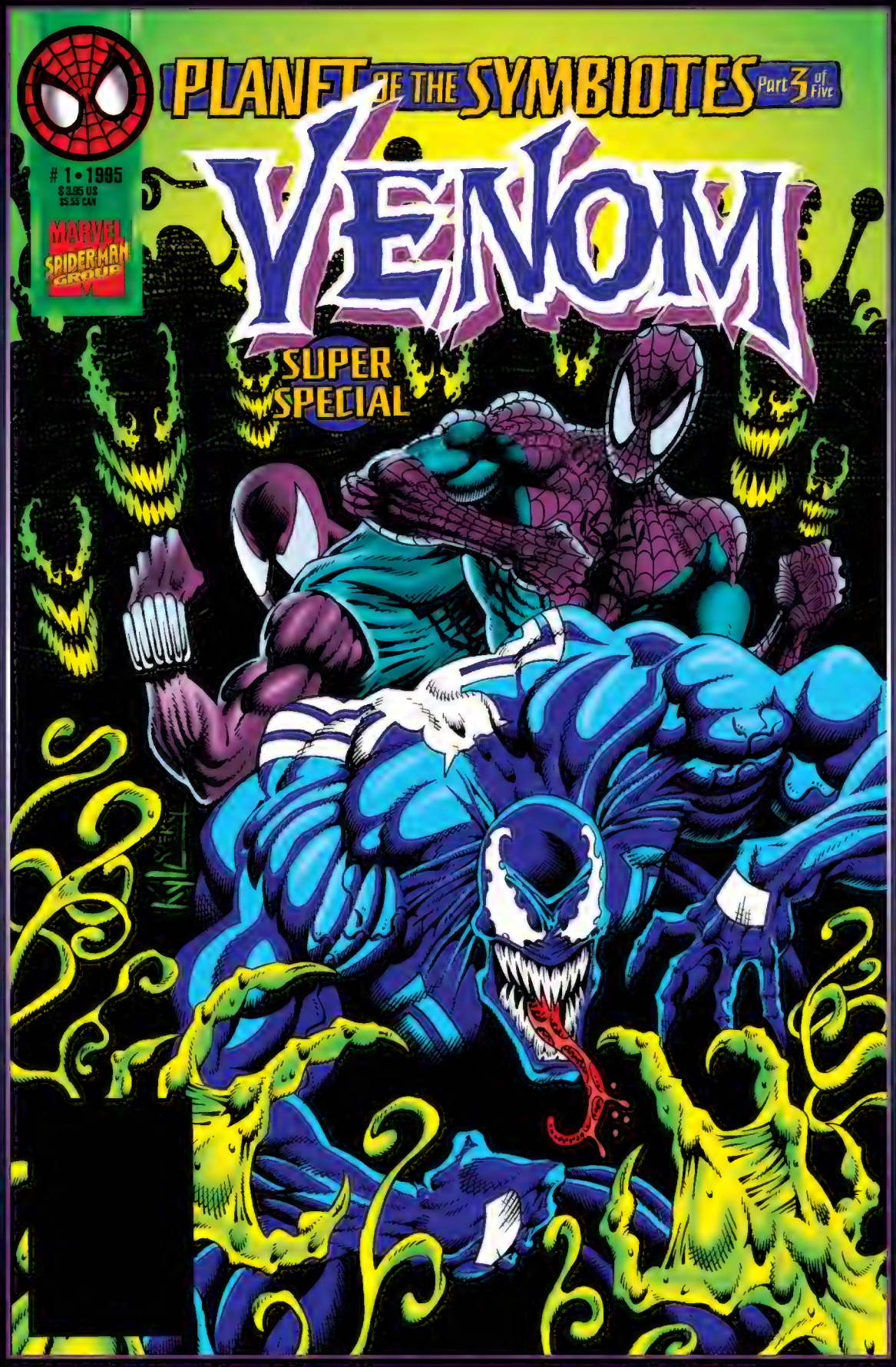
PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES
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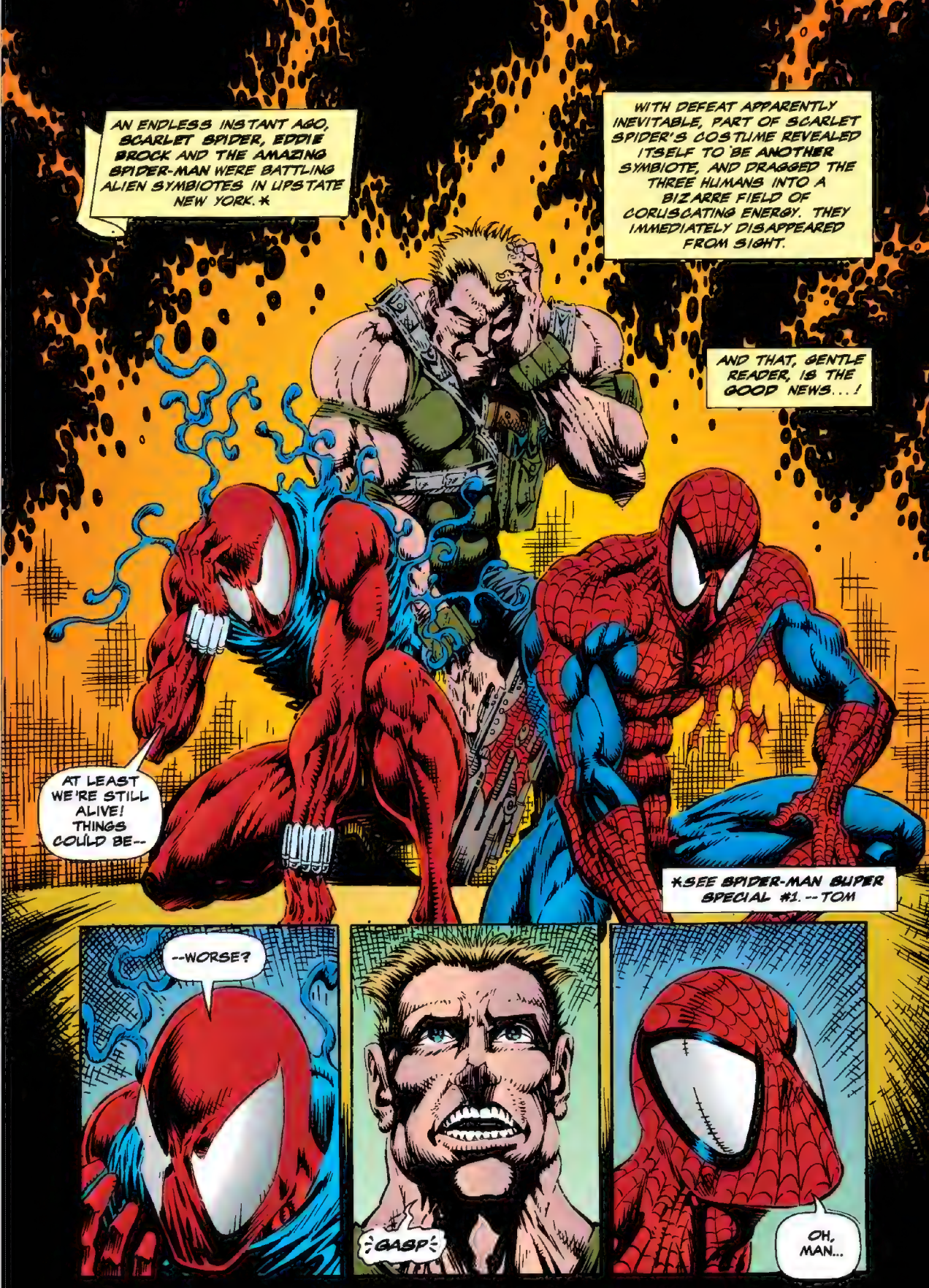
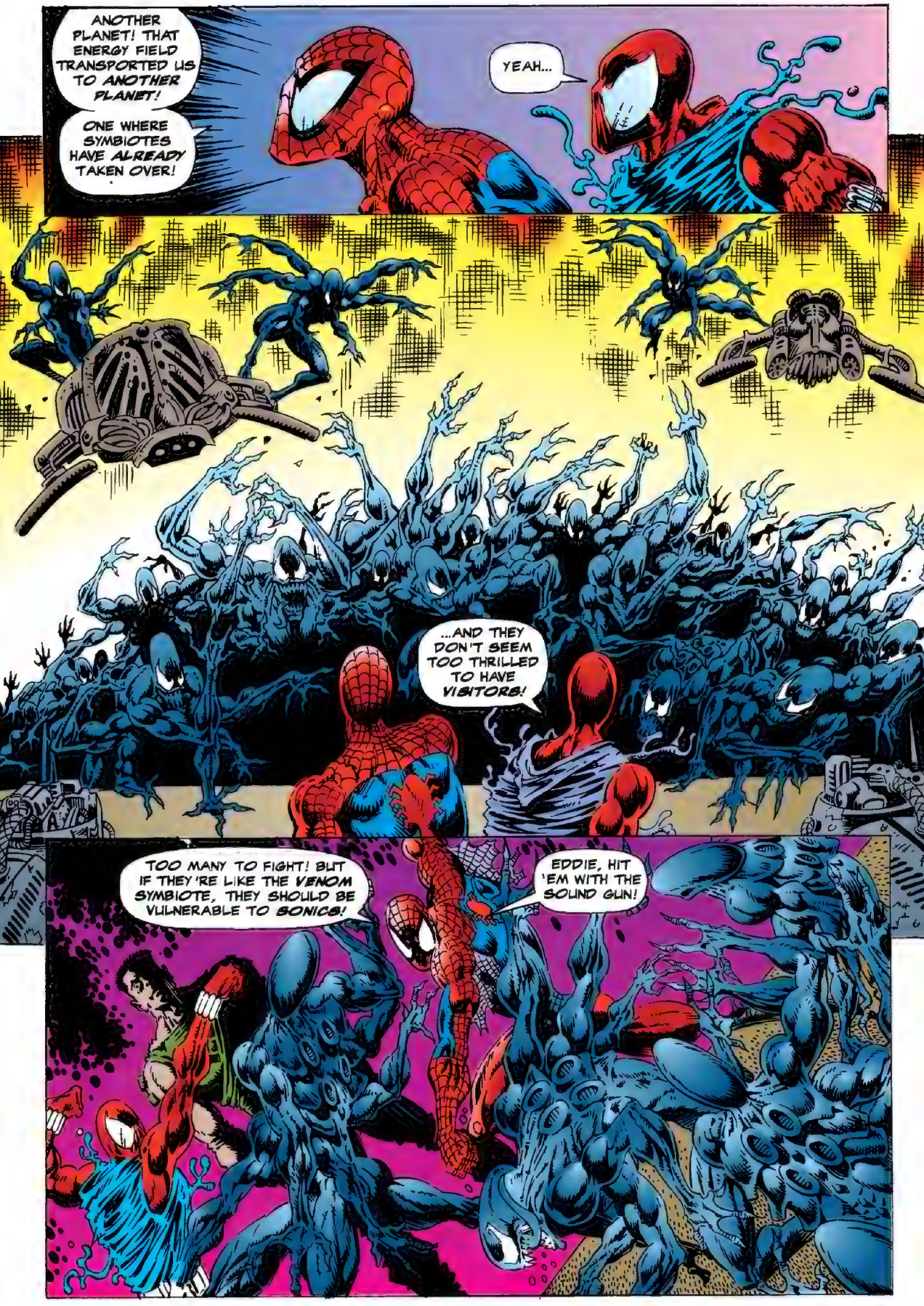

AN ENDLESS INSTANT AGO, SCARLET SPIDER, EDDIE BROCK AND THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN WERE BATTLING ALIEN SYMBIOTES IN UPSTATE NEW YORK.*
WITH DEFEAT APPARENTLY INEVITABLE, PART OF SCARLET SPIDER'S COSTUME REVEALED ITSELF TO BE ANOTHER SYMBIOTE, AND DRAGGED THE THREE HUMANS INTO A BIZARRE FIELD OF CORUSCATING ENERGY. THEY IMMEDIATELY DISAPPEARED FROM SIGHT.
AND THAT, GENTLE READER, IS THE GOOD NEWS...!
AT LEAST WE'RE STILL ALIVE! THINGS COULD BE--
*SEE SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL #1. --TOM
--WORSE?
GASP
OH, MAN...

PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES
CHAPTER 3:

MONSTERWORLD!

...I HATE IT WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT!

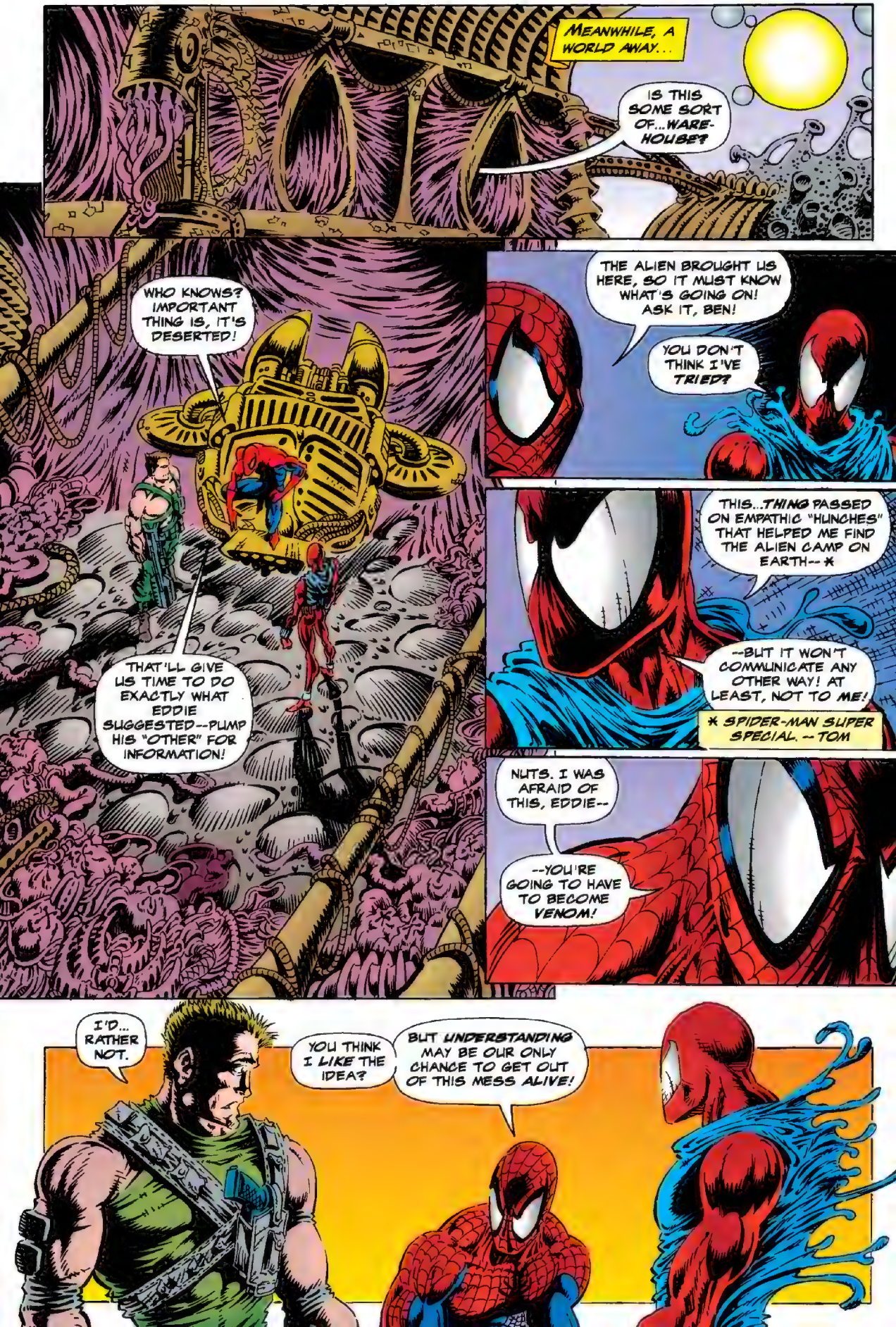
DAVID MICHELINIE	writer
KYLE HOTZ	penciler
ARMANDO GIL	inker
OAKLEY / NJQ	letterers
TOM SMITH	colorist
TOM BREVOORT	editor
DANNY FINGEROTH	group editor
BOB BUDIANSKY	editor in chief


ANOTHER PLANET! THAT ENERGY FIELD TRANSPORTED US TO ANOTHER PLANET!
ONE WHERE SYMBIOTES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN OVER!
YEAH...
...AND THEY DON'T SEEM TOO THRILLED TO HAVE VISITORS!
TOO MANY TO FIGHT! BUT IF THEY'RE LIKE THE VENOM SYMBIOTE, THEY SHOULD BE VULNERABLE TO SONICS!
EDDIE, HIT 'EM WITH THE SOUND GUN!

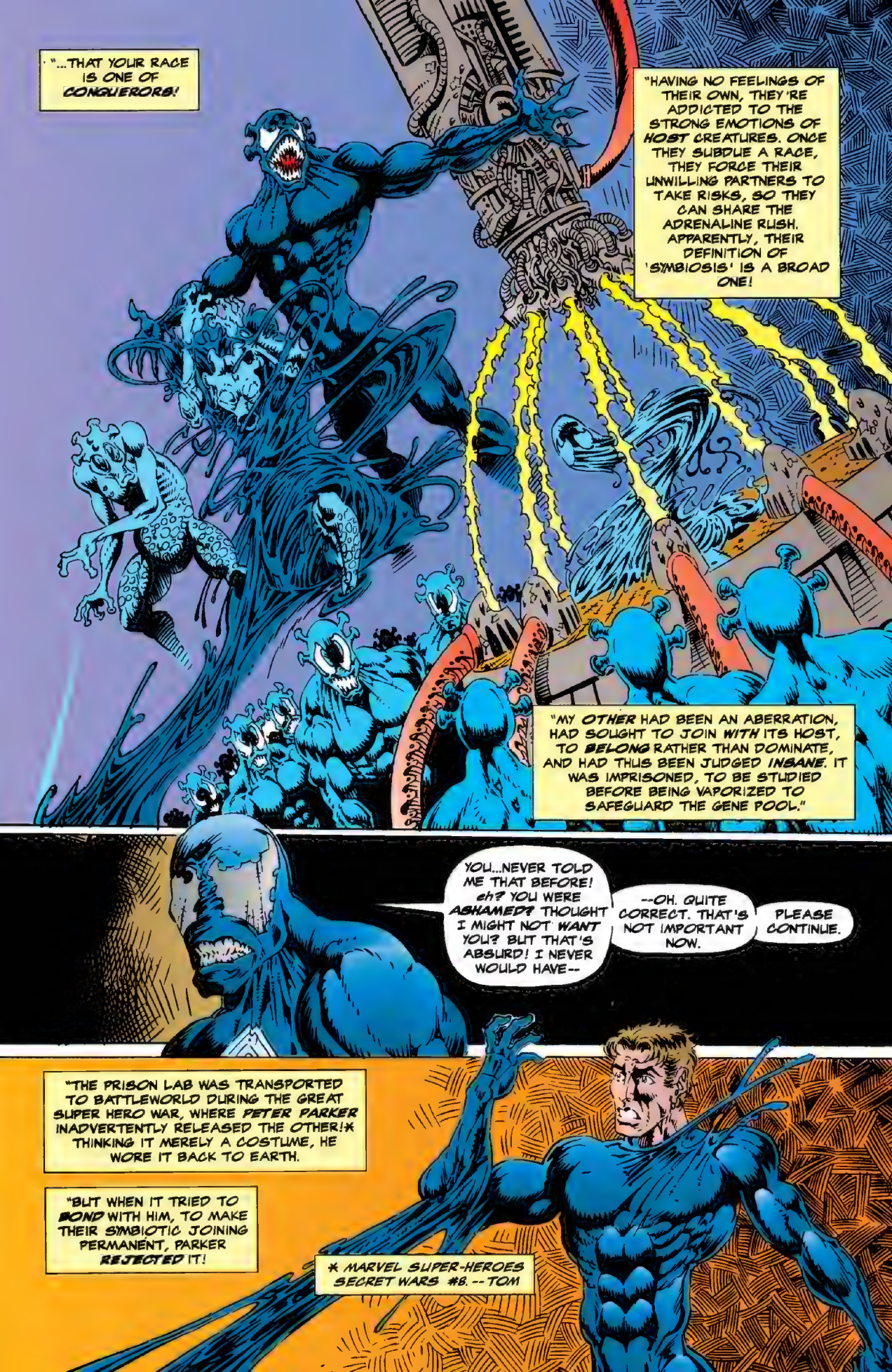
EDDIE? OH, GREAT...
...HE'S TOTALLY FREAKED!
I'VE BEEN TO OTHER WORLDS, AND YOU HAVE CLONE MEMORIES OF THEM! BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR EDDIE!
CREATURES SEEM TO BE TARGETING ME!
WE'VE GOT TO SNAP BROCK OUT OF IT SOMEH--
--OW!
OW!
I...I FELT THAT ONE'S PAIN! COULD IT BE--
--MY "OTHER"?
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
SHREEEERREEEEE!

THEY'RE BACKING OFF!
THEY RULE THIS PLANET, PROBABLY AREN'T USED TO RESISTANCE!
OR PAIN!
SO WHAT N--
--OWP?!
HEY, PUT ME DOWN! PUT--
--WAITASEC! IT'S STARTING THE ENGINE ON THIS THING! WE'VE GOT A TICKET OUT!
C'MON! LET'S--
--GO!
SHOOP!
IT MIGHT BE WISE TO FOLLOW THE OTHER'S LEAD FOR NOW.
IT APPEARS TO HAVE OUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART. BUT ONCE IT'S FOUND A SAFE PLACE FOR US TO HIDE...
...WE NEED TO TALK!

EARTH.
MANHATTAN.
...FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-SIX...
MERCURY FITNESS
...FORTY-SEVEN... FORTY-EIGHT...
EASY, HONEY! KEEP POUNDIN' LIKE THAT AN' YOU'LL DAMAGE THE MACHINE!
VALEO
WORKIN' OFF A MAD OR SOMETHIN'?
MY HUSBAND DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT.
AH, THAT'S NOTHIN'! MY SWEETIE DOES THAT ALLA TIME!
DOES YOUR SWEETIE FIGHT BRAIN-EATING MONSTERS FROM OUTER SPACE?
uh...
...FIFTY-ONE...
...uh...
...FIFTY-TWO...
...uh...
...FIFTY-THREE...
...uh...

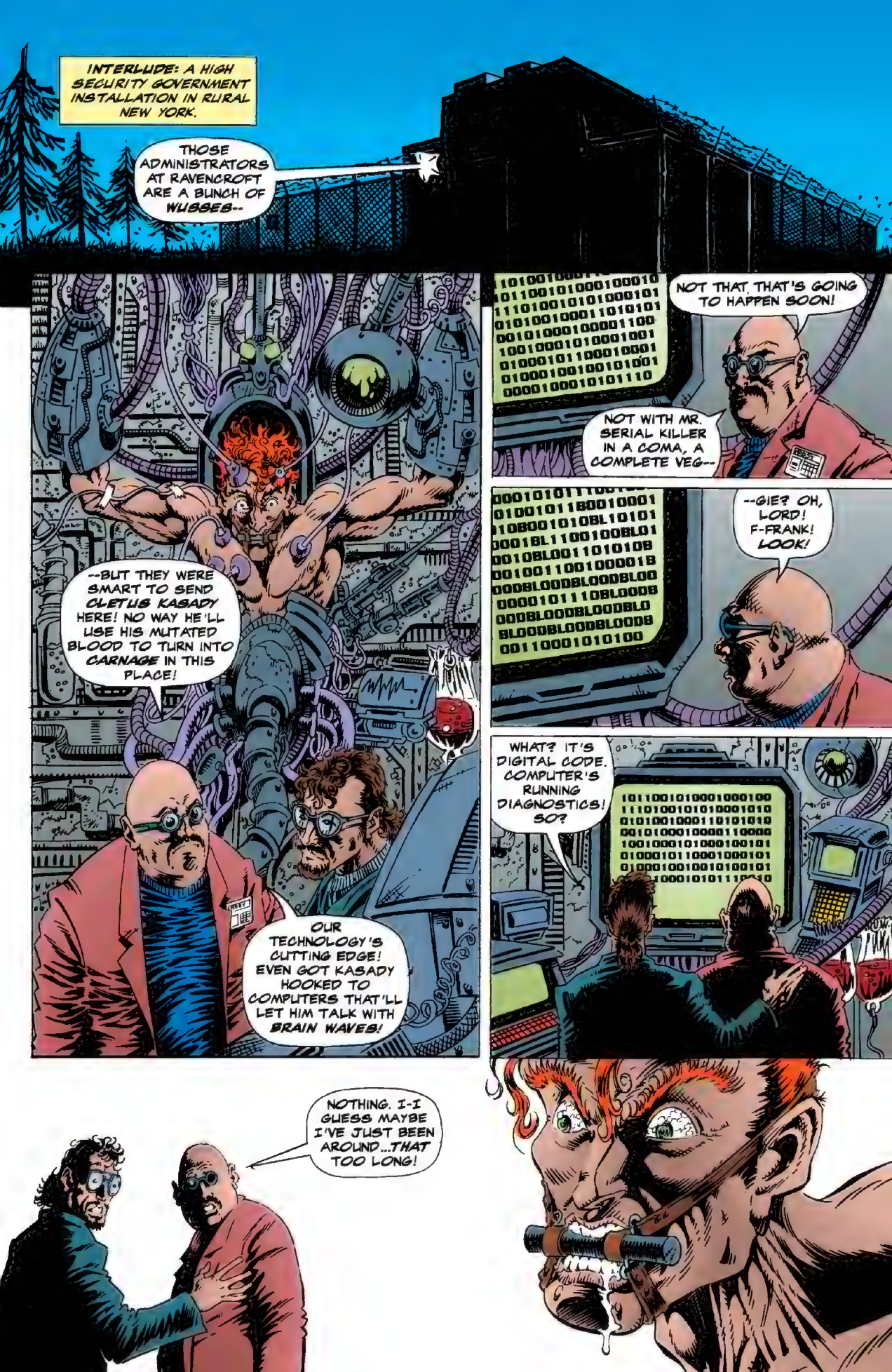

MEANWHILE, A WORLD AWAY...
IS THIS SOME SORT OF...WARE-HOUSE?
WHO KNOWS? IMPORTANT THING IS, IT'S DESERTED!
THAT'LL GIVE US TIME TO DO EXACTLY WHAT EDDIE SUGGESTED--PUMP HIS "OTHER" FOR INFORMATION!
THE ALIEN BROUGHT US HERE, SO IT MUST KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! ASK IT, BEN!
YOU DON'T THINK I'VE TRIED?
THIS...THING PASSED ON EMPATHIC "HUNCHES" THAT HELPED ME FIND THE ALIEN CAMP ON EARTH--*
--BUT IT WON'T COMMUNICATE ANY OTHER WAY! AT LEAST, NOT TO ME!
* SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL. --TOM
NUTS. I WAS AFRAID OF THIS, EDDIE--
--YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BECOME VENOM!
I'D... RATHER NOT.
YOU THINK I LIKE THE IDEA?
BUT UNDERSTANDING MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS ALIVE!

ALL RIGHT. I WILL IF--
--YOU...
...NO...
...WE!
YES, I REALIZE THIS IS ONLY TEMPORARY! I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO!
VERY WELL. I UNDERSTAND.
I'LL TELL THEM...

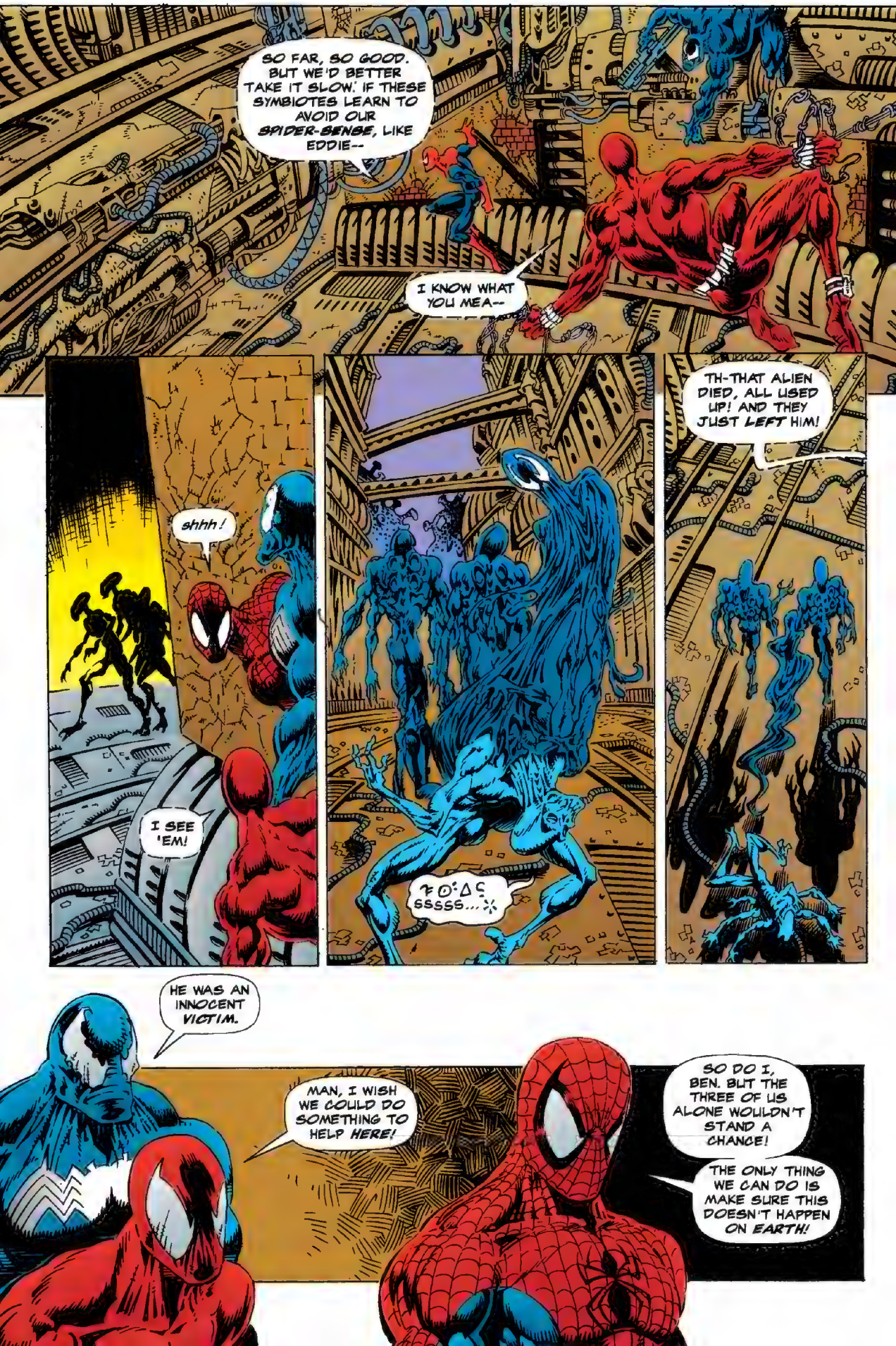

"...THAT YOUR RACE IS ONE OF CONQUERORS!
"HAVING NO FEELINGS OF THEIR OWN, THEY'RE ADDICTED TO THE STRONG EMOTIONS OF HOST CREATURES. ONCE THEY SUBDUE A RACE, THEY FORCE THEIR UNWILLING PARTNERS TO TAKE RISKS, SO THEY CAN SHARE THE ADRENALINE RUSH. APPARENTLY, THEIR DEFINITION OF 'SYMBIOSIS' IS A BROAD ONE!
"MY OTHER HAD BEEN AN ABERRATION, HAD SOUGHT TO JOIN WITH ITS HOST, TO BELONG RATHER THAN DOMINATE, AND HAD THUS BEEN JUDGED INSANE. IT WAS IMPRISONED, TO BE STUDIED BEFORE BEING VAPORIZED TO SAFEGUARD THE GENE POOL."
YOU...NEVER TOLD ME THAT BEFORE! eh? YOU WERE ASHAMED? THOUGHT I MIGHT NOT WANT YOU? BUT THAT'S ABSURD! I NEVER WOULD HAVE--
--OH. QUITE CORRECT. THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW.
PLEASE CONTINUE.
"THE PRISON LAB WAS TRANSPORTED TO BATTLEWORLD DURING THE GREAT SUPER HERO WAR, WHERE PETER PARKER INADVERTENTLY RELEASED THE OTHER!* THINKING IT MERELY A COSTUME, HE WORE IT BACK TO EARTH.
"BUT WHEN IT TRIED TO BOND WITH HIM, TO MAKE THEIR SYMBIOTIC JOINING PERMANENT, PARKER REJECTED IT!
* MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SECRET WARS #8. -- TOM

"THEN THE SYMBIOTE AND I FOUND EACH OTHER, AND HAD A LONG AND FULFILLING RELATIONSHIP THAT ONLY RECENTLY... ENDED.
"IN PREVIOUS BATTLES, IT HAD SENSED SIMILARITIES BETWEEN BEN REILLY AND ITS ORIGINAL HOST, AND SO SOUGHT TO JOIN WITH REILLY.
"BUT IT KEPT ITS PRESENCE SECRET, FEARING REJECTION YET AGAIN."
IT HELPED THE ONLY WAY IT COULD, OFFERING EMPATHIC CLUES THAT LED US TO OUR QUARRY. AND WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO BE DEFEATED, IT SAVED US--
--BY DRAGGING US INTO THE STARGATE THAT TRANSPORTED US HERE!
BUT WHY WAS THE "STARGATE" THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
UNFORTUNATELY...
"...HOSTS HAVE A LIMITED TERM OF UTILITY. ENTIRE RACES ARE USED UP, MEETING EXTINCTION BEFORE THE VAMPIRIC RUSH-LUST OF THE THRILL-SEEKING SYMBIOTES!

"THEREFORE, SCOUT SHIPS CONSTANTLY SCOUR THE GALAXY FOR SUITABLE REPLACEMENTS.
"WHEN MY OTHER AND I PARTED, ITS...ANGUISH ESCAPED IN A PSYCHIC SCREAM, APPARENTLY STRONG ENOUGH TO BE FELT BY FELLOW CREATURES IN A NEARBY SOLAR SYSTEM.
"THEY HOMED IN ON THE CRY, AND FOUND EARTH!
"BUT SINCE THEY WERE TOO FAR FROM THIS WORLD FOR RADIO CONTACT, THEY COMMANDEERED LOCAL TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD A STARGATE, INTENDING TO SEND ONE OF THEIR PARTY HERE WITH EARTH'S COORDINATES."
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY GET THOSE COORDINATES?
THEN...THE FULL-SCALE INVASION BEGINS!


INTERLUDE: A HIGH SECURITY GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION IN RURAL NEW YORK.
THOSE ADMINISTRATORS AT RAVENCROFT ARE A BUNCH OF WUSSES--
--BUT THEY WERE SMART TO SEND CLETUS KASADY HERE! NO WAY HE'LL USE HIS MUTATED BLOOD TO TURN INTO CARNAGE IN THIS PLACE!
OUR TECHNOLOGY'S CUTTING EDGE! EVEN GOT KASADY HOOKED TO COMPUTERS THAT'LL LET HIM TALK WITH BRAIN WAVES!
NOT THAT, THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN SOON!
NOT WITH MR. SERIAL KILLER IN A COMA, A COMPLETE VEG--
--GIE? OH, LORD! F-FRANK! LOOK!
WHAT? IT'S DIGITAL CODE. COMPUTER'S RUNNING DIAGNOSTICS!
SO?
NOTHING. I-I GUESS MAYBE I'VE JUST BEEN AROUND...THAT TOO LONG!

ELSEWHERE...
CAN'T WAIT AROUND ANY LONGER! REACHING THAT STARGATE IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF GETTING BACK TO EARTH!
AND GOING ON FOOT, USING COVER, WILL GIVE US OUR BEST CHANCE OF GETTING THERE!
THE TRICKY PART WILL BE IN SETTING UP A DISRUPTION WAVE IN THE TRANSPORT MACHINERY, TO DESTROY IT ONCE WE'RE GONE!
MY OTHER ASSURES ME IT KNOWS WHAT TO DO.
YEAH, BUT HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST--
MY OTHER WOULD NEVER LIE TO ME!
NEVER!
OKAY, OKAY! sheesh!
NEVER!
NEVER...


SO FAR, SO GOOD. BUT WE'D BETTER TAKE IT SLOW. IF THESE SYMBIOTES LEARN TO AVOID OUR SPIDER-SENSE, LIKE EDDIE--
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEA--
shhh!
I SEE 'EM!
TH-THAT ALIEN DIED, ALL USED UP! AND THEY JUST LEFT HIM!
SSSSS...
HE WAS AN INNOCENT VICTIM.
MAN, I WISH WE COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP HERE!
SO DO I, BEN. BUT THE THREE OF US ALONE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE!
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS MAKE SURE THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN ON EARTH!

THERE! WE'VE REACHED THE GATE!
YEAH, AND PRETTY EASILY, TOO! EVERYONE MUST BE OUT LOOKING FOR US--DIDN'T EVEN LEAVE ANY GUARDS!
BUT THERE'S STILL A BIG PROBLEM: ONE OF US HAS TO STAY TO WORK THE GATE CONTROLS!
GUESS THAT'S ME. HATE TO SOUND MAUDLIN, BUT...
...I AM JUST A CLONE. NO ONE'LL MISS ME IF I DON'T MAKE IT BACK.
NO. THE GATE IS SYMBIOTE MACHINERY. ONLY ONE OF THEIR RACE CAN OPERATE IT.
WE'LL STAY.
I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO ARGUE. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!
WAIT! SOMETHING--

"--JUST--
"--DOESN'T--
"--FEEL--
"RIGHT!"
THEY'RE HERE!
IT WAS A TRAP! GUARDS USED THEIR CAMOUFLAGE ABILITIES TO BLEND IN! THEY WERE HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT!

TARGETING US THIS TIME!
FOCUSING THEIR RAGE ON MY OTHER, ON THE "ROGUE" WHO BETRAYED THEM!
THEIR DETERMINATION IS SINGULAR! DON'T KNOW HOW LONG SONICS CAN STAVE OFF THEIR ATTACK!
THEN LET'S SEE HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT--
--FIRE!
SSFASH

THEY'RE PULLING BACK!
WE'VE REACHED THE CONTROLS!
SETTING UP THE DISRUPTION WAVE, AND ACTIVATING THE--
--STARGATE!
GO! WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF, FOLLOW WHEN YOU'RE SAFE!
GOT PROBLEMS WITH THAT, SPIDEY?
NONE I CAN'T LIVE WITH!
THEY'RE THROUGH! NOW WE CAN--
SQWRAAW!
NO!
SHREEEE

I COULDN'T--! I-I MEAN, I MERELY REACTED--
--eh? ALIEN CRUSHED THE SONIC GUN! I'M--
--HELPLESS!
J-JOINING ME?
YES! HOW PRACTICAL!
ONE CAN GET THROUGH THE GATE MORE EASILY THAN TWO!
AAGH! TAKING A LAST OUNCE OF FLESH, MONSTER?
WOULD THAT WE HAD TIME FOR VENGEANCE!
BUT SNACKING ON YOUR INNARDS WILL HAVE TO REMAIN A FOND, WISTFUL DREAM!

EARTH.
DONE!
NOT QUITE!
WE'VE STILL GOT TROUBLE HERE! BUT THAT'S BETTER THAN FACING A WHOLE PLANET OF--HEY!
SHOULDN'T THE GATE HAVE SHUT DOWN BY NOW?
SO HOW COME IT'S GLOWING BRIGHTER?
IT SEEMS THERE'S A SLIGHT...PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO MY OTHER--
--SYMBIOTES SHARE GENETIC MEMORY! WHEN ONE TORE SUBSTANCE FROM US AS WE ESCAPED, IT MUST HAVE "READ" THAT MEMORY, DISCOVERED THE DISRUPTION WAVE!
OH, NO!
TELL ME THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY WERE ABLE TO STOP IT!

WELL, ACTUALLY...
OVERWHELMINGLY CONTINUED IN SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL #1!

Amazing Spider-Man Super Special
page 4 art by **Dave Hoover** & **Ralph Cabrera**

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THE SPECTACULAR
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A·N·D
AL VEY

...IN SUMMARY: THE GLOBAL SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED, AND UNREMITTINGLY GRIM.

IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, SHAPE-SHIFTING **ALIENS** HAVE SPREAD OVER THE PLANET, TAKING HUMAN HOSTS AS SLAVES, LEAVING A TERRIFYING TRAIL OF DEATH AND DESPAIR!

BOLD PROTECTORS LIKE THE **HUMAN TORCH** AND **BLACK BOLT** HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS FIGHTING THE MENACE WITH FIRE AND SONICS. BUT ALAS...

...OTHERS HAVEN'T FARED SO WELL. THE WORLD SHARES THE PAIN OF **CAPTAIN AMERICA** AND OTHER FALLEN HEROES. BUT WE KNOW THAT IF CAP COULD, HE'D TELL YOU TO STAY INSIDE, BEHIND LOCKED DOORS.

SO FAR, THE INVADERS HAVE MOSTLY TARGETED STRATEGIC LOCATIONS, BUT THEIR PRESENCE IS INEXORABLY INCREASING!

BY NOW THEY COULD BE ANY... WH-WHERE...?

PLANET of the SYMBIOTES chapter 4

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS OF SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #226. --TOM

DAVID MICHELINIE	writer
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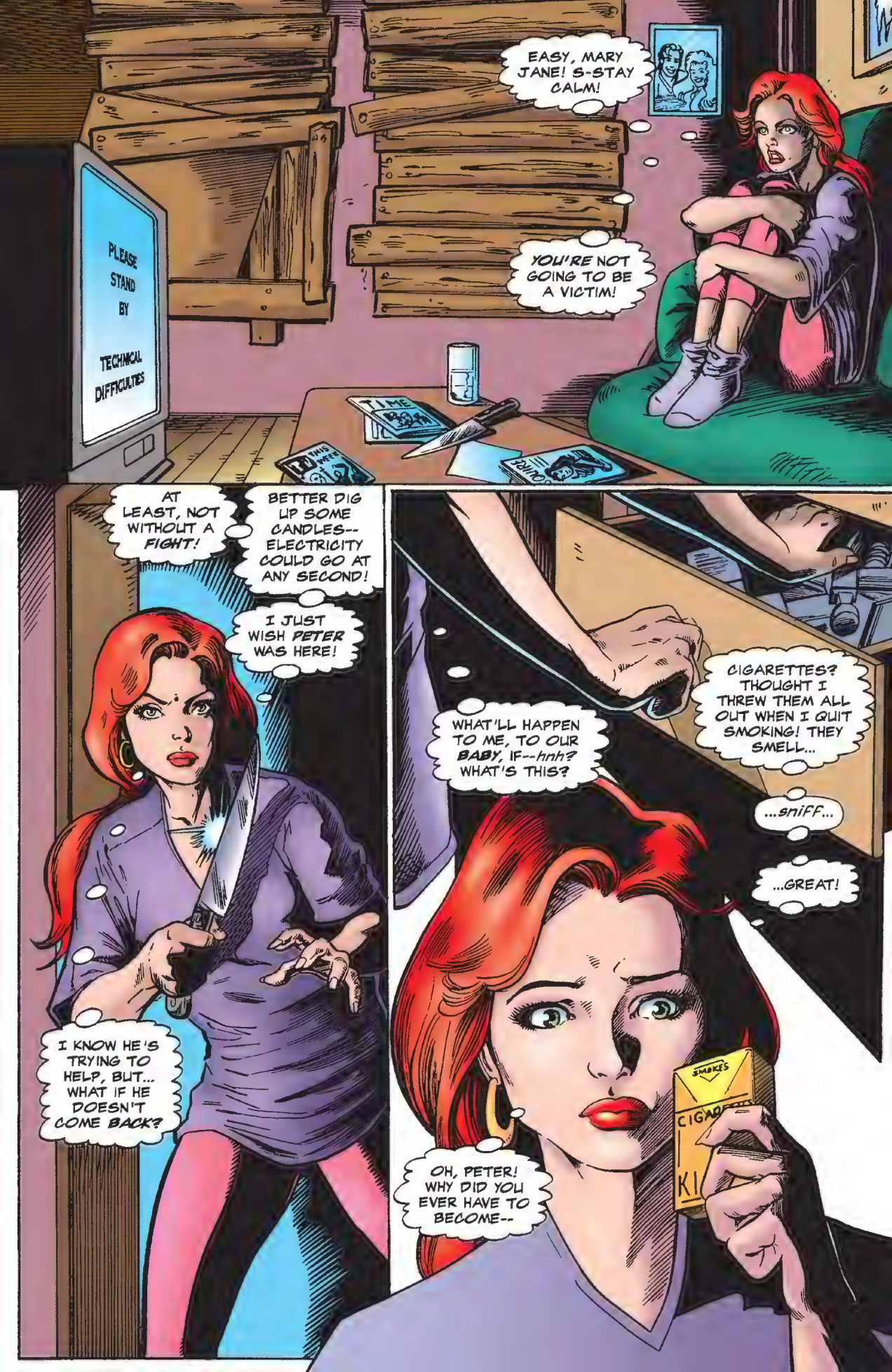

EASY, MARY JANE! S-STAY CALM!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A VICTIM!
PLEASE STAND BY
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES
AT LEAST, NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT!
BETTER DIG UP SOME CANDLES-- ELECTRICITY COULD GO AT ANY SECOND!
I JUST WISH PETER WAS HERE!
I KNOW HE'S TRYING TO HELP, BUT... WHAT IF HE DOESN'T COME BACK?
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME, TO OUR BABY, IF--hnh? WHAT'S THIS?
CIGARETTES? THOUGHT I THREW THEM ALL OUT WHEN I QUIT SMOKING! THEY SMELL...
...sniff...
...GREAT!
SMOKES
OH, PETER! WHY DID YOU EVER HAVE TO BECOME--

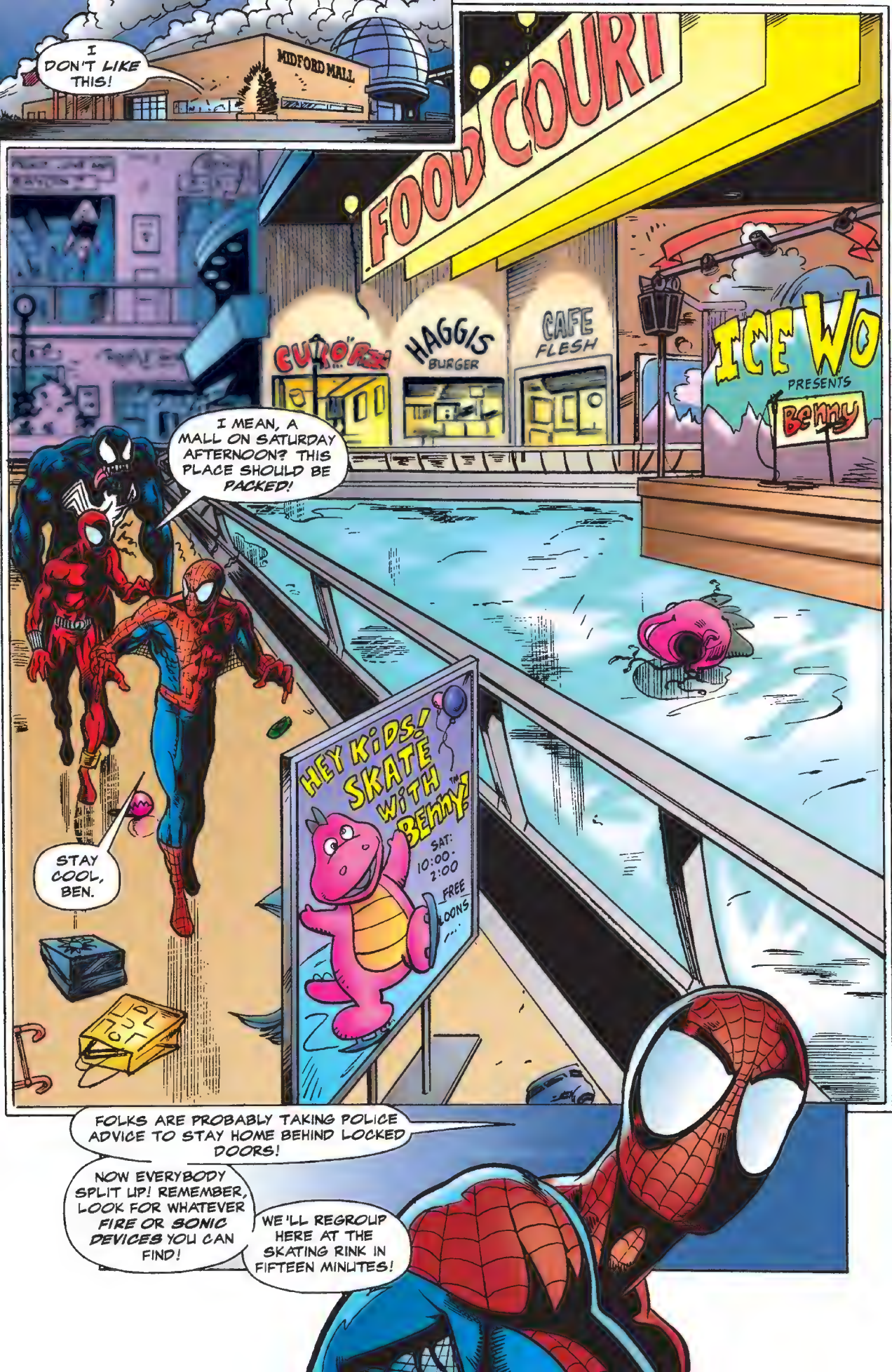
"--SPIDER-MAN?!"
CRIPES! I'VE HAD NIGHTMARES I'VE ENJOYED MORE THAN THIS!
UPSTATE NEW YORK.
MY ONLY PRAYER IS TO TIME THINGS JUUUST RIGHT!
SYMBIOTIC MONSTERS ARE GAINING!
THIS IS GONNA BE CLOSE...!

NOW!
VENOM--!
DON'T TELL US OUR JOB, SCARLET SPIDER!
THWIP!
PUR!
WE KNOW--
--TO BRING THE ROOF DOWN!
SYMBIOTES WILL PROTECT THEIR HUMAN HOSTS FROM IMPACT, BUT THEY WON'T BE HURT, EITHER!
ALL WE'VE BOUGHT IS A LITTLE TIME!

WE NEED WEAPONS, A WAY TO FIGHT BACK!
BUT WHERE DO WE FIND SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
HEY, MOM! TAKE ME TO THE MIDFORD MALL
HMMM.
WHILE AT A DETENTION FACILITY SOME MILES DISTANT...
THE WORLD'S OVERRUN WITH MONSTERS--
--SO WHY ARE WE PROTECTING THIS ONE?
THE SYMBIOTE IN CLETUS KASADY'S BLOOD TURNS HIM INTO CARNAGE, THE WORST OF THE LOT!
WE'RE NOT PROTECTIN' HIM, JERRY--WE'RE PROTECTIN' THIS INSTALLATION.
YEAH, I GUESS. THE ALIENS HAVE SHOWN A PREFERENCE FOR DEFENDABLE BASES.
YOU BET! AN' THIS IS ONE O' THE BEST! THEY EVEN PROMISED TO LET ME RUN THE PLACE--

?!?
--AFTER I HELP 'EM TAKE IT OVER!
AH, JER, JER...YA NEVER DID HAVE ANY AMBITION!
HNH?
PING!
CEREBRO-COMMUNICATOR ACTIVE?
NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY.
I-I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN A COMA!
PING!
OH, MY. IT CAN THINK...?

HEY, I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THAT CRAP FROM YOU!
SHIK!
THANKS... I NEEDED THAT!
PING!
OH, LORD! H-HE'S BLEEDIN'--!
THAT'S RIGHT, ELMER! AN' PRETTY SOON--
--I WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE!
CHUNCH!
MUTATED BLOOD GIVES ME MY COSTUME AN' POWERS! AN' SOON--huh?
I-I'M ABSORBIN' HIS SYMBIOTE?
NOW I'M TALLER, STRONGER! DON'T KNOW WHY--
--BUT I THINK I LIKE THIS!


I DON'T LIKE THIS!
MIDFORD MALL
FOOD COURT
HAGGIS BURGER
CAFE FLESH
ICE WO
PRESENTS
Benny
I MEAN, A MALL ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON? THIS PLACE SHOULD BE PACKED!
STAY COOL, BEN.
HEY KIDS! SKATE WITH Benny!
SAT: 10:00. 2:00
FREE LOONS
FOLKS ARE PROBABLY TAKING POLICE ADVICE TO STAY HOME BEHIND LOCKED DOORS!
NOW EVERYBODY SPLIT UP! REMEMBER, LOOK FOR WHATEVER FIRE OR SONIC DEVICES YOU CAN FIND!
WE'LL REGROUP HERE AT THE SKATING RINK IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!

IT'S PAINFUL, KNOWING THAT ALL THIS CHAOS BEGAN BECAUSE OF US!
INVASION!
INVASION
WHEN I SENT YOU, MY "OTHER," AWAY, YOUR PSYCHIC SCREAM BROUGHT YOUR KINDRED TO EARTH!
BIG BIG BIG SAVINGS JUNE 9-12
I WAS WORRIED THAT THE VIOLENCE WE GENERATE AS VENOM WAS MORE YOUR INFLUENCE THAN MY CHOICE! AND YOUR RACE IS OBVIOUSLY A SAVAGE ONE!
ON THE OTHER HAND, VIOLENCE SEEMS THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE HORRORS BEING SUFFERED BY SO MANY INNOCENTS! AND IN THAT LIGHT...
...CAN IT TRULY BE WRONG?

PAY PHONES AREN'T WORKING, BUT MAYBE I CAN REACH MARY JANE ON ONE OF THESE CELLULAR--
NUTS. BATTERY'S DEAD!
NOTHING TO DO BUT GET ON WITH THE SEARCH.
BE SAFE, SWEET-HEART...!
JUST A COUPLE OF PUFFS, THEN I'LL CRUSH IT OUT!
I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'VE WANTED ANYTHING--
--MORE?
GET REAL, MJ!
WHAT YOU WANT MORE IS A HEALTHY BABY!
NICOTINE ISN'T THE ANSWER! I'LL HAVE TO GET THROUGH THIS THE HARD WAY: WITH PATIENCE...
...AND FAITH IN PETER!

I DIDN'T SET OUT TO BE A CRIMEFIGHTER, BUT NOW THAT I AM ONE--
PROPANE
--I FEEL NAKED WITHOUT MY WHOLE COSTUME!
SO, WITH SOME CREATIVE SLEEVE-TEARING...
KRR!!IP!
...AND THE HELP OF THIS DISPLAY MARKER...
...THE SCARLET SPIDER LIVES!
--BEFORE THOSE ALIENS FIGURE OUT WHERE WE ARE!
OKAY, SO IT'S CORNY-- SUE ME!
LEFT THE PROPRIETOR A FEW BUCKS, IN CASE HE COMES BACK.
MEANWHILE, I'D BETTER GET THESE PROPANE TORCHES BACK TO THE SKATING RINK--

FIND ANYTHING?
NADA!
WE WERE UNSUCCESS-FUL AS WELL. BUT PERHAPS THE SCARLET--
G-G-GUYS?
WHAT--?
THEY'RE HEEEERE!
GOT AN IDEA! VENOM, TAKE OFF!
US? RUN?!
DON'T ARGUE! WHAT I'M THINKING ABOUT COULD HURT YOU, TOO! GO!

SKATING RINK SOUND SYSTEM! IF I CAN CRANK UP THE VOLUME--!
WHAT T
PLAY LIST
OH, MAN! SO MANY BUTTONS!
DON'T KNOW HOW SPIDER-TRACTION WORKS ON ICE! GOTTA TAKE IT SLOW!
AND THOSE MONSTERS ARE GAINING!
THIS SHOULD DO IT!
CLICK
MUSIC ISN'T ENOUGH, SPIDEY! WE NEED DISSONANCE!
THE MICROPHONE--!
RAINDROPS KEEP FALLIN' ON MUH HEAD...
I GET IT!
SKREEEEEEEEK!
PRESENTS
Benny
FEEDBACK!

IN HERE! THE DOOR IS AIRTIGHT!
STORAGE AREA
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
MAN, MY EARS ARE GONNA RING FOR WEEKS!
WHY CAN'T THOSE SLUGS JUST GO BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM!
HEY, YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING THERE!
IF WE REVERSE THE DIRECTION OF THE ALIENS' JUMP GATE, MAYBE WE COULD SEND THEM BACK!
THE PSYCHIC SHRIEK FROM VENOM'S "OTHER" REACHED THEM IN ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM!
IF WE COULD AMPLIFY THAT, CAUSE THEM PAIN, THEY MIGHT LEAVE ON THEIR OWN!
BUT--
--WHAT IF THEY STRIKE AT THE SOURCE OF THE PAIN INSTEAD? WHAT IF THEY GO AFTER VENOM?
TO END THE SUFFERING OF SO MANY INNOCENTS--
--WE WILL GLADLY BEAR THAT RISK!

COMPOUND'S FULLA CREEPAZOIDS!
PROB'LY WAITIN' FOR THAT HUMAN *TURNCOAT* TA LET 'EM IN!
GOTTA LEARN WHAT'S GOIN' ON--
--BUT SINCE THE "LI'L BUDDY" I ABSORBED AIN'T *VOLUNTEERIN'* ANY INFO...!
C'MON, PAL, TALK! STARTIN' WITH WHERE ALL YER LITTER MATES ARE *GATHERED!*
DON'T WANNA? MAYBE I CAN PROVIDE SOME *MOTIVATION!*
BET IF I HOLD YA IN THE FLAME *LONG* ENOUGH, YA'LL TELL ME THE HISTORY O' THE FREAKIN' UNIVERSE! I KNOW--
--'CAUSE THIS HURTS *ME* AS MUCH AS IT DOES *YOU!*
ONLY DIFFERENCE IS...
...I DON'T *CARE!*

HOURS LATER.
THE INVADERS' STRONGHOLD.
A FUSE-LIT "HELLO".
PTSSSSSS
PROPANE
BAWANG!

WELL, *THAT* GOT THEIR ATTENTION!

LET'S HOPE IT *KEEPS* IT LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO REACH THE STAR-GATE'S *CONTROL* CONSOLE!

MADE IT! VENOM--

THOK!

--HAVE YOUR *"OTHER"* RE-SET THE POWER FLOW, SWITCH IT FROM RECEIVE TO *SEND!*

YES! BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP THE *MONSTERS* AT BAY WHILE WE WORK!

sigh

NO ONE SAID THIS WOULD BE *EASY!*

AT LEAST THE *TORCH GUNS* WE RIGGED ARE EFFECTIVE! BUT HOW CAN THEY STOP--

--THAT?

WHAT?

AN ALIEN SHIP HEADED STRAIGHT FOR VENOM!

OH, MAN...!

C'MON!

PICKING UP SPEED!
WIND RESIS-TANCE IS INCREDIBLE!
GOTTA FIGHT IT! G-GOTTA... JUST...
...FIGHT!
BEN! THE CONTROLS--!
I'M HERE!
I DON'T GET IT! IF THEY FIRE, THEY'LL DESTROY THE STARGATE! IT'S A BLUFF!
CAN WE TAKE THAT--
--CHANCE?
WHOOF!
"IT WORKED! WE'RE SWERVING AWAY! I MUST'VE PUSHED THE RIGHT BUTTONS! BUT--
"--NOW THE SYMBIOTES'RE SWIVELING THAT CANNON TOWARDS VENOM!"

NOOOO!
SHAVRATCH!
THEY DID IT! BUT WHY--?!
WHEN WE JOINED WITH THE CONTROLS, WE DISCOVERED THE MACHINE HAD BEEN SHUT DOWN AT THE OTHER END!
THEN THE ENTIRE INVASION FORCE MUST BE ON EARTH! THEY DIDN'T NEED THE GATE ANYMORE!
WHICH MEANS WE HAVE NO WAY TO SEND THEM BACK! THEY'RE HERE FOR GOOD!
AW, GEEZ, COULD THINGS GET WORSE?
SORRY I'M LATE!
SORRY I ASKED...!

I STOPPED ALONG THE WAY FOR A FEW SNACKS!
MAN, THEM SYMBIOTES SURE IS TASTY...!
To be concluded •• BIG TIME •• in WEB of SPIDER • MAN SUPER SPECIAL • 1!

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page 21 art by **Dave Hoover** & **Ralph Cabrera**

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MORTAL VICTORY
PLANET of the SYMBIOTES
CONCLUSION
EARTH HAS BEEN OVERWHELMED--
--INVADED BY ALIEN SLAVEMASTERS WHO THREATEN THE EXTINCTION OF HUMANITY!
BUT IF YOU THINK THAT'S THE BIGGEST PROBLEM SPIDER-MAN AND THE SCARLET SPIDER CURRENTLY FACE...
...YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION!

DAVID MICHELINIE - writer
STEVE LIGHTLE - artist
OAKLEY / N.J.Q. - letterers
MARIANNE LIGHTLE - colorist
TOM BREVOORT - editor
BOB BUDIANSKY - editor-in-chief
MALIBU - computer color

C'MON, SLOW DOWN! I ONLY WANNA SUCK YER *SKULL* OUT THROUGH YER NOSE!

HOW DID *CARNAGE* GET TO BE FORTY FEET TALL?!

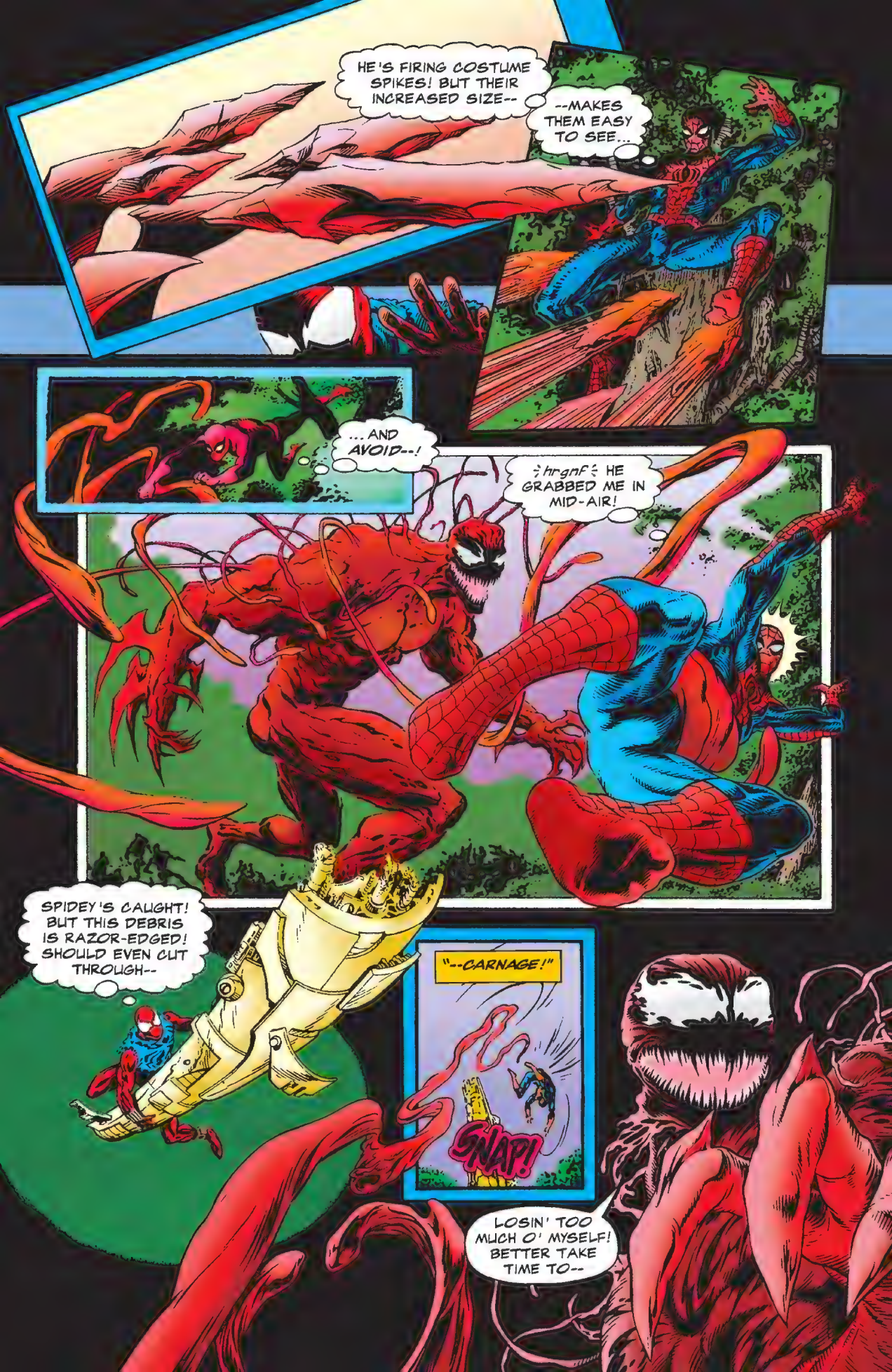
BEATS THE HECK OUTTA ME!

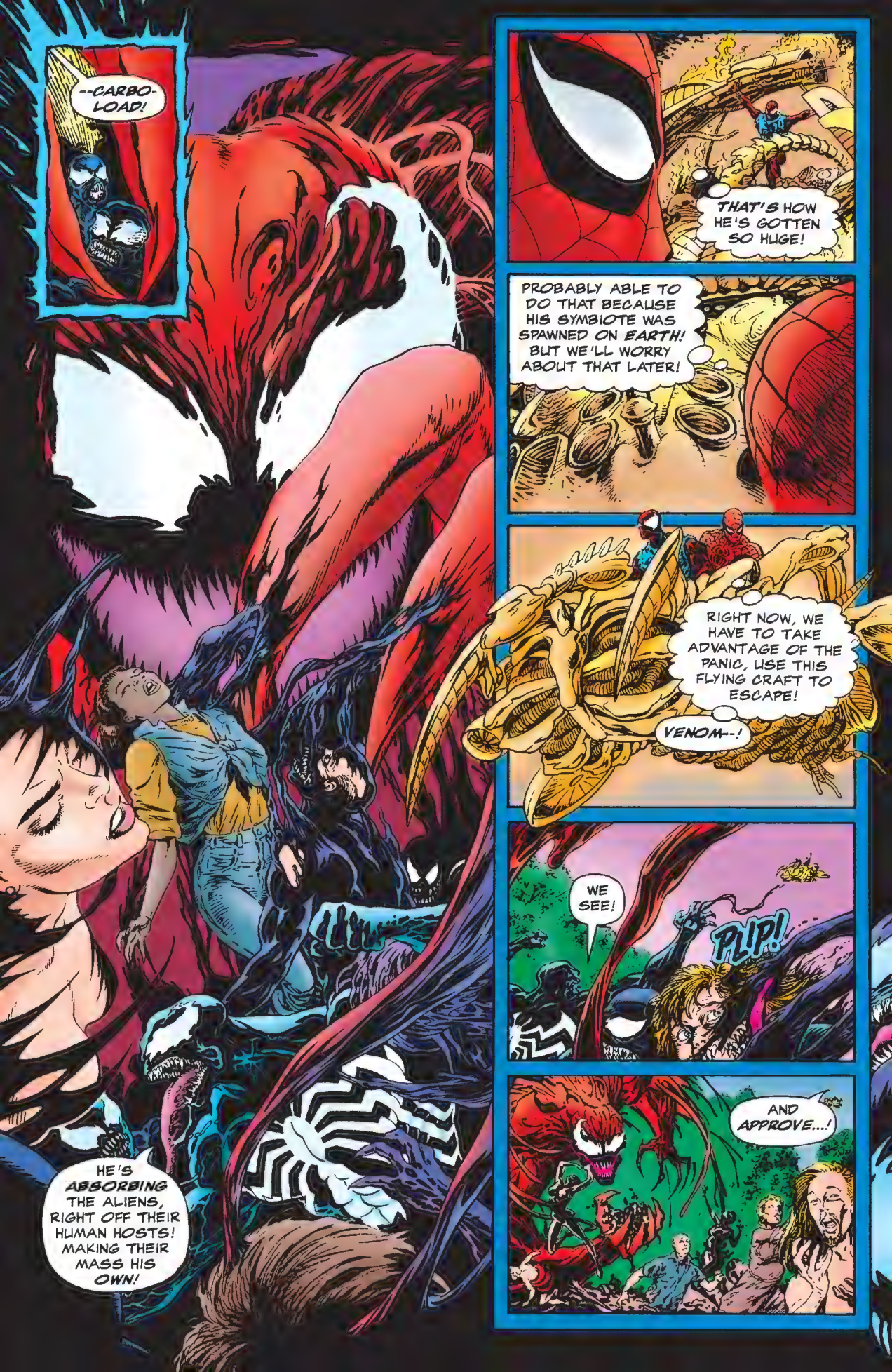
BUT THE ALIENS SEEM CONFUSED, LIKE THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF "BIG BROTHER"!

"TOO BAD THEY DON'T FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT *VENOM!*"

"YEAH, THEY'RE ALL OVER HIM LIKE VULTURES ON ROAD KILL!"

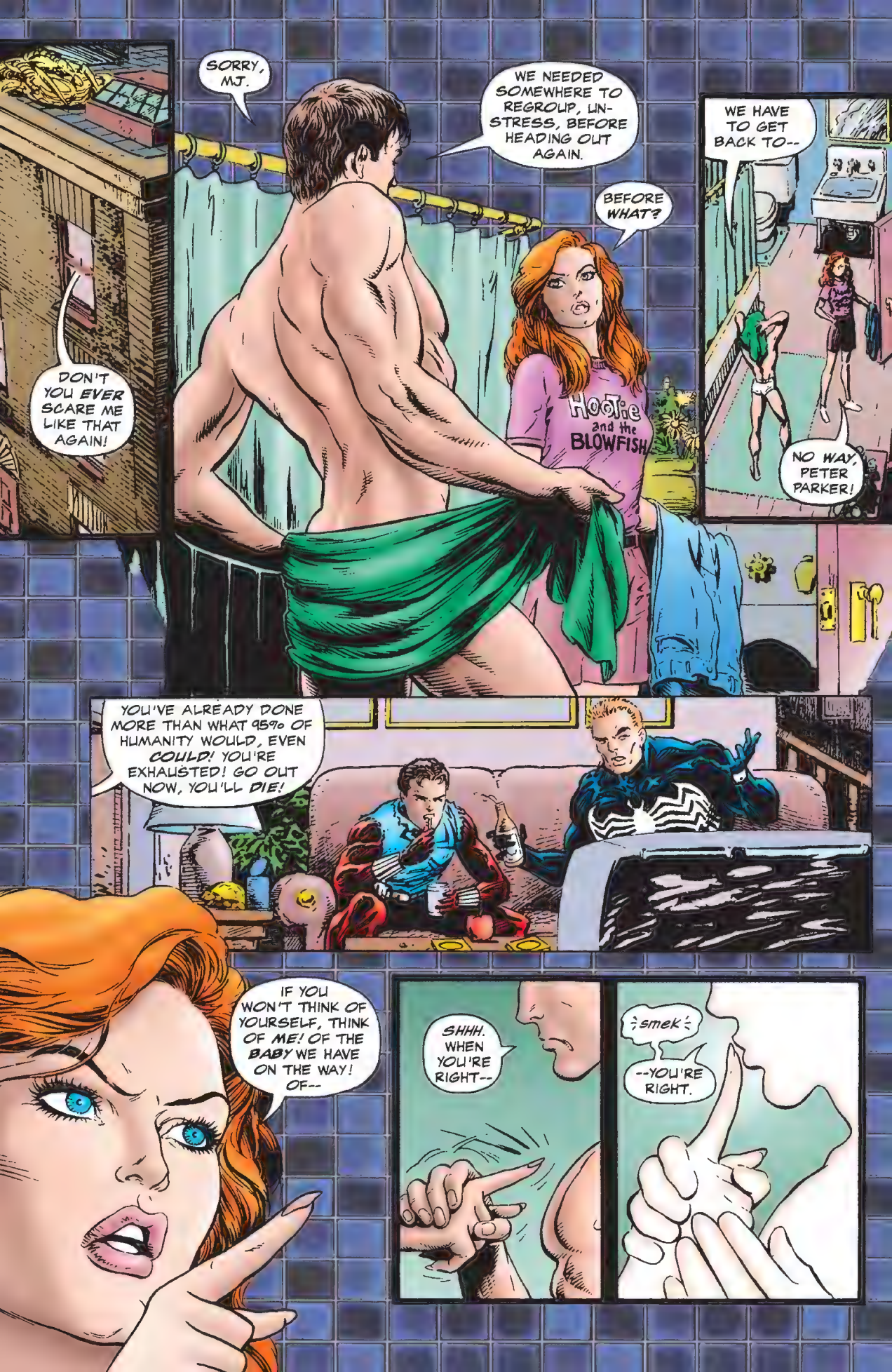
WHICH LEAVES US TO DEAL WITH THIS GIANT *PSYCHO* ALONE!


HE'S FIRING COSTUME SPIKES! BUT THEIR INCREASED SIZE--
--MAKES THEM EASY TO SEE...
...AND AVOID--!
:hrgnf: HE GRABBED ME IN MID-AIR!
SPIDEY'S CAUGHT! BUT THIS DEBRIS IS RAZOR-EDGED! SHOULD EVEN CUT THROUGH--
"--CARNAGE!"
SNAP!
LOSIN' TOO MUCH O' MYSELF! BETTER TAKE TIME TO--


--CARBO-LOAD!
THAT'S HOW HE'S GOTTEN SO HUGE!
PROBABLY ABLE TO DO THAT BECAUSE HIS SYMBIOTE WAS SPAWNED ON EARTH! BUT WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER!
RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PANIC, USE THIS FLYING CRAFT TO ESCAPE!
VENOM--!
WE SEE!
PLIP!
AND APPROVE...!
HE'S ABSORBING THE ALIENS, RIGHT OFF THEIR HUMAN HOSTS! MAKING THEIR MASS HIS OWN!

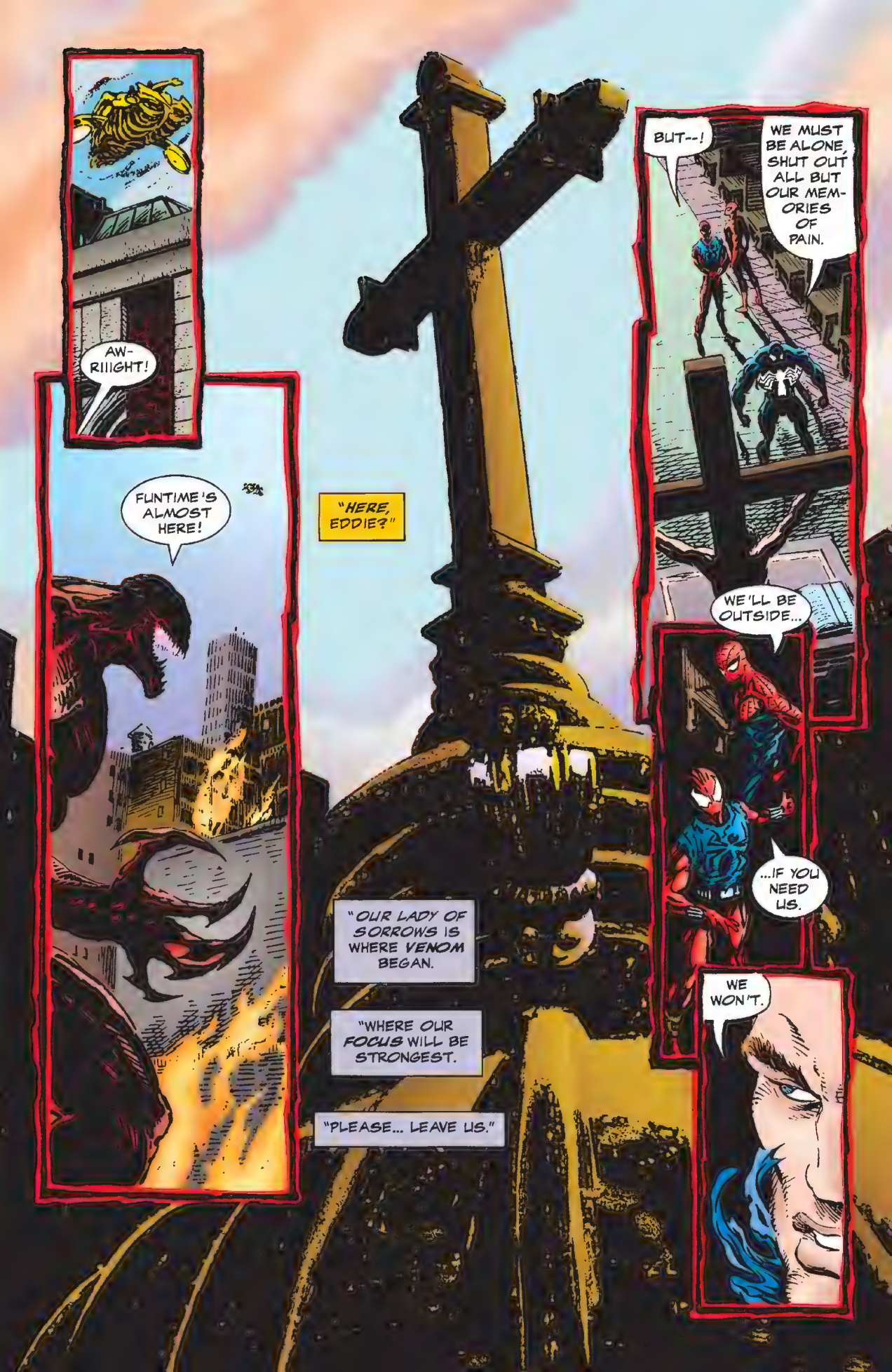
IS...IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?
--I'VE NEVER BEEN THROUGH ANYTHING LIKE THIS! SIRENS HAVE STOPPED...
HAVEN'T LEFT THIS BOOTH IN TWO DAYS. PHONES ARE DEAD. NO WINDOWS.
SO I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I ASK...IF I PLEAD...
...IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?
SORRY. I--I GUESS THAT'S NOT VERY PROFESSIONAL. AND I'VE BEEN A DISC JOCKEY IN THE BIG APPLE FOR TWENTY YEARS! BUT--
...BUT I STILL HEAR THE SCREAMS.

SOMEBODY UPSTAIRS!
BOARDS BEING PRIED LOOSE FROM THE SKYLIGHT!
I WAS A FOOL! WOULDN'T BELIEVE THIS COULD HAPPEN TO ME!
I--I GUESS THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE THINKS, UNTIL--
--IT DOES?
NOOOOO!
MARY JANE!
YOU, UH, REMEMBER EDDIE BROCK...DON'T YOU?


SORRY, MJ.
WE NEEDED SOMEWHERE TO REGROUP, UN-STRESS, BEFORE HEADING OUT AGAIN.
BEFORE WHAT?
DON'T YOU EVER SCARE ME LIKE THAT AGAIN!
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO--
NO WAY, PETER PARKER!
Hootie and the BLOWFISH
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE MORE THAN WHAT 95% OF HUMANITY WOULD, EVEN COULD! YOU'RE EXHAUSTED! GO OUT NOW, YOU'LL DIE!
IF YOU WON'T THINK OF YOURSELF, THINK OF ME! OF THE BABY WE HAVE ON THE WAY! OF--
SHHH. WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT--
:smek:
--YOU'RE RIGHT.

MORNING: THE REMAINS OF MANHATTAN.
"THERE MAY BE A WAY."
...SHRIEKED!
THAT PSYCHIC CRY DREW THE REST OF ITS SPECIES HERE...
ALL THIS PAIN, THIS TERROR, STARTED WHEN I REJECTED MY "OTHER".
I FEARED THE VIOLENCE WE CAUSED AS VENOM WAS MORE ITS IDEA THAN MINE. WHEN IT LEFT ME, IT...
EASY, EDDIE.
SOME-THING TO EAT...?
...AND THE SUFFERING OF COUNTLESS INNOCENTS BEGAN!
WE ARE THE CAUSE OF THAT HORROR--
HWAGGK
--BUT WE MAY ALSO BE THE CURE! YES!
A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL! WE FEEL BETTER NOW!

PERHAPS WE WILL HAVE THAT BITE...!
CRUNCH!
WAITASECOND! BY "LIGHT", YOU MEAN THERE'S A WAY TO STOP THE INVADERS?
POSSIBLY. SYMBIOTES ARE EMPATHIC RECEPTORS.
ICK.
THEIR SENSITIVITY TO EMOTION COULD BE THE ANSWER!
IF WE AMPLIFY THE PSYCHIC AGONY THAT BROUGHT THEM HERE--
--IT'S POSSIBLE THEY COULD GORGE ON EMPATHIC TRAUMA, OVERLOAD AND SHUT DOWN--
--BE DRIVEN INTO PROTECTIVE COMAS!
HE'S NUTS, BUT HE COULD BE RIGHT!
I GOTTA GO.
I...I KNOW.


AW-RIIIGHT!
FUNTIME'S ALMOST HERE!
"HERE, EDDIE?"
"OUR LADY OF SORROWS IS WHERE VENOM BEGAN.
"WHERE OUR FOCUS WILL BE STRONGEST.
"PLEASE... LEAVE US."
BUT--!
WE MUST BE ALONE, SHUT OUT ALL BUT OUR MEMORIES OF PAIN.
WE'LL BE OUTSIDE...
...IF YOU NEED US.
WE WON'T.

NICE! IT'S LIKE WE DON'T EVEN MATTER!
HECK, I BEEN SAYIN' THAT FOR YEARS!
WHA--?!
I STOPPED SNACKIN' ON SYMBIOTES WHEN I REALIZED THEY WERE CAUSIN' MAJOR CHAOS--I LIKE CHAOS!
FIGURED I'D USE MY EMPATHIC LINK TA FIND VENOM, CHOW DOWN ON HIM INSTEAD!
SINCE HE "MADE" ME, IT SEEMS FITTIN' THAT I UN-MAKE HIM!
GOTTA KEEP HIM AWAY FROM EDDIE!
BUT HOW? HE'S BIGGER THAN THE CHURCH NOW!

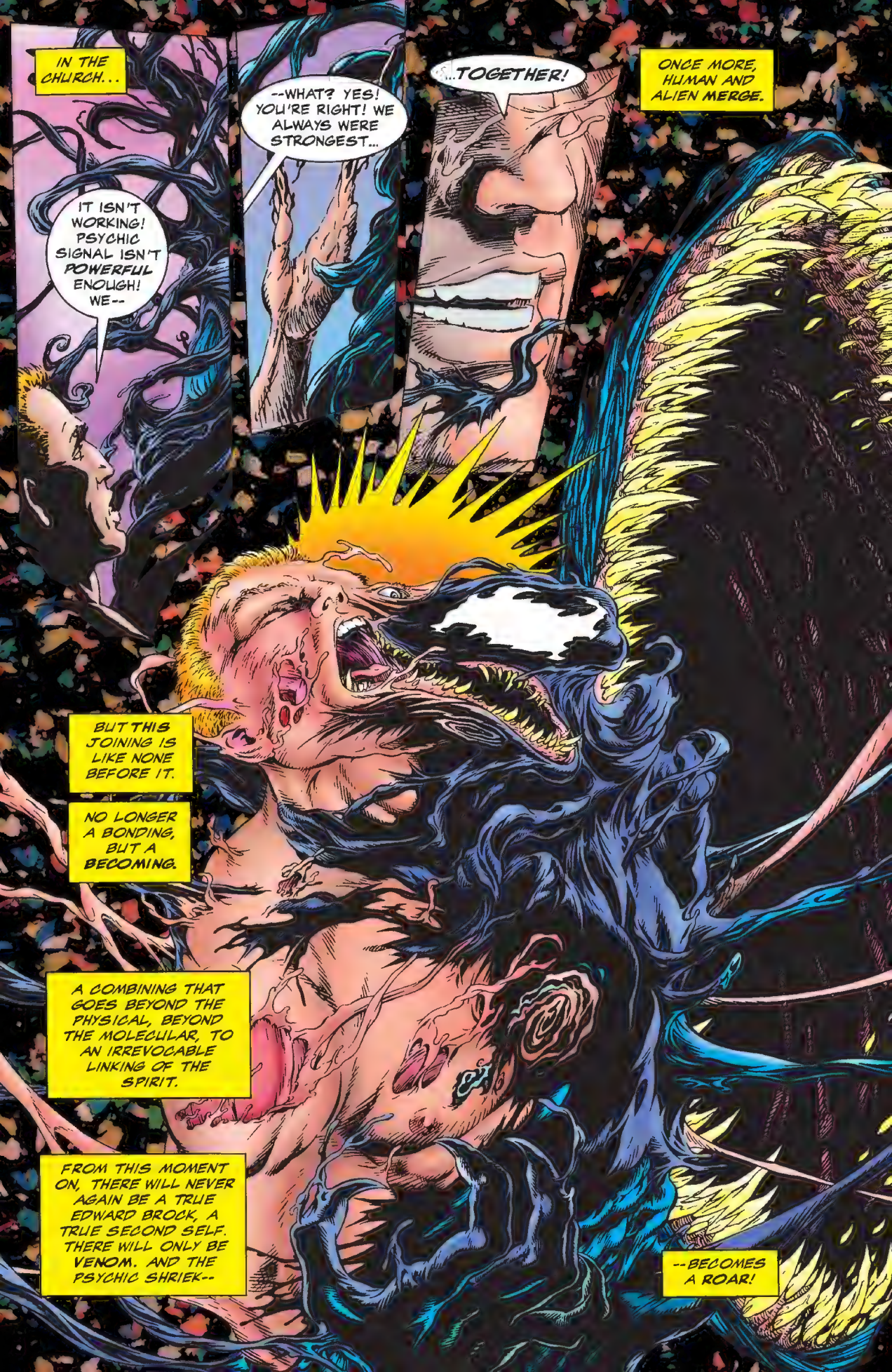
MAYBE PSYCHOLOGY?
WE SHOULD'VE ANTICIPATED THIS! GOING AFTER VENOM MAKES SENSE!
WHAT?!
I HATE IT WHEN I MAKE SENSE!
BETTER GET BACK TO BASICS, GO FOR THE UNEXPECTED!
LIKE TAKIN' TIME TA PULP YOU WHINERS, INSTEAD!
PRUNCH!
IN THE CHURCH...
...AGONY.
A SILENT SHRIEK OF PAIN SOON HEARD... FELT... SHARED... THE WORLD OVER!

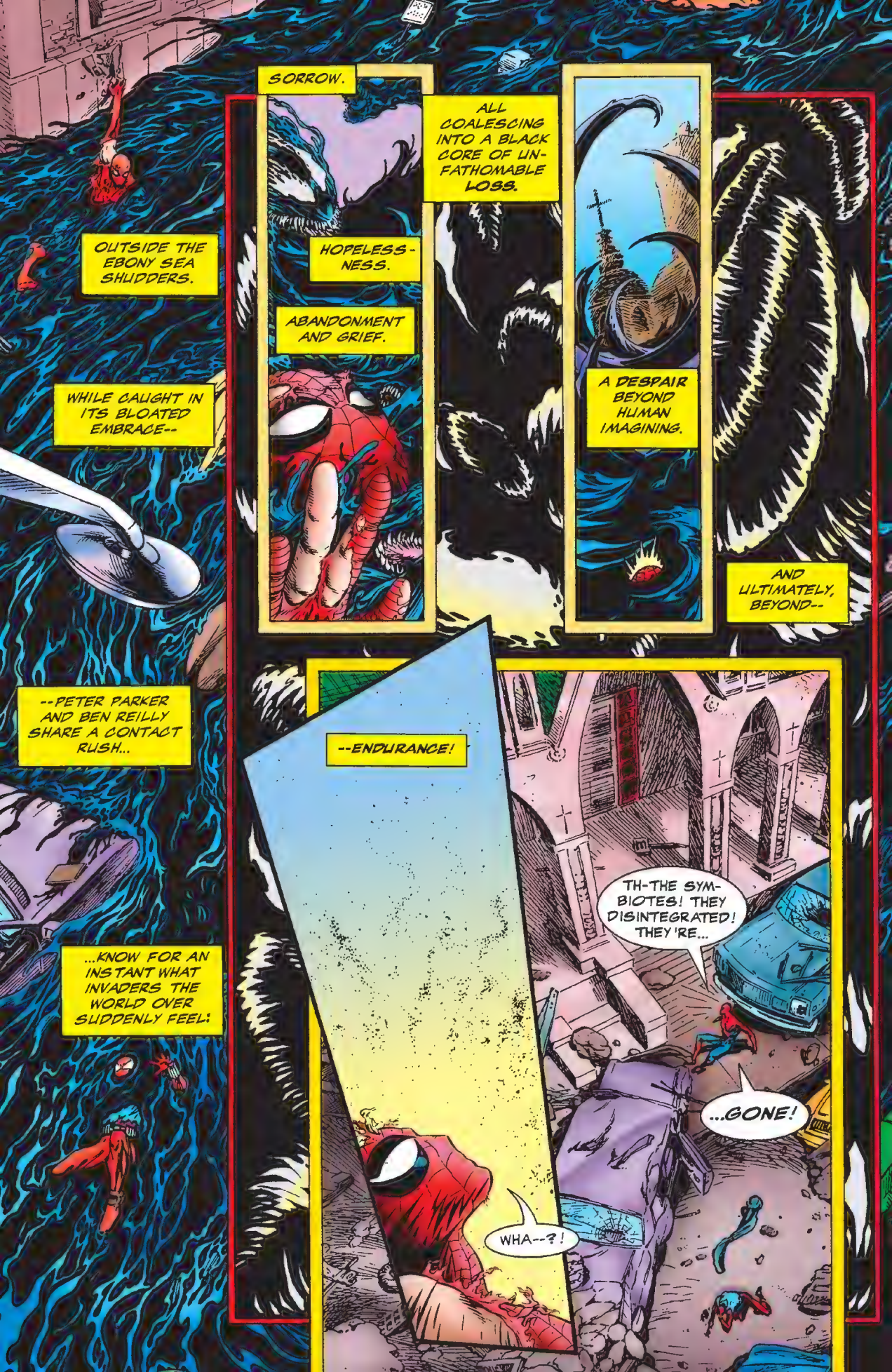
PETER! YOU OKAY?
TR-TRICK... QUESTION... RIGHT?
MY TURN!
AGAIN!
K-KASH!
PETE'S HURT! MAYBE BROKEN!
BUT WE GOTTA GO ON!
IN THE CHURCH...
...ANGUISH GROWS.
A SWELL OF PSYCHIC SUFFERING THAT ENTERS ALIEN NERVES, PULLING..
...LIKE A MAGNET!

TOP O' THE WORLD, MA!
AN' YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT!
THBAK!
WUNK!
M-MUST BE... CONCUSSED!
I-I CAN SMELL...
...FUMES?
G-GOOD... THINKING, BEN!
GAS FUMES... SPREADING!
WHEN THEY REACH WILDFIRES... WH-WHOLE RIG... SHOULD EXPLODE!
GOTTA JUMP AWAY...BUT NOT TOO SOON! NOT 'TIL...WE'RE SURE WE'VE GOT...
...YOU!

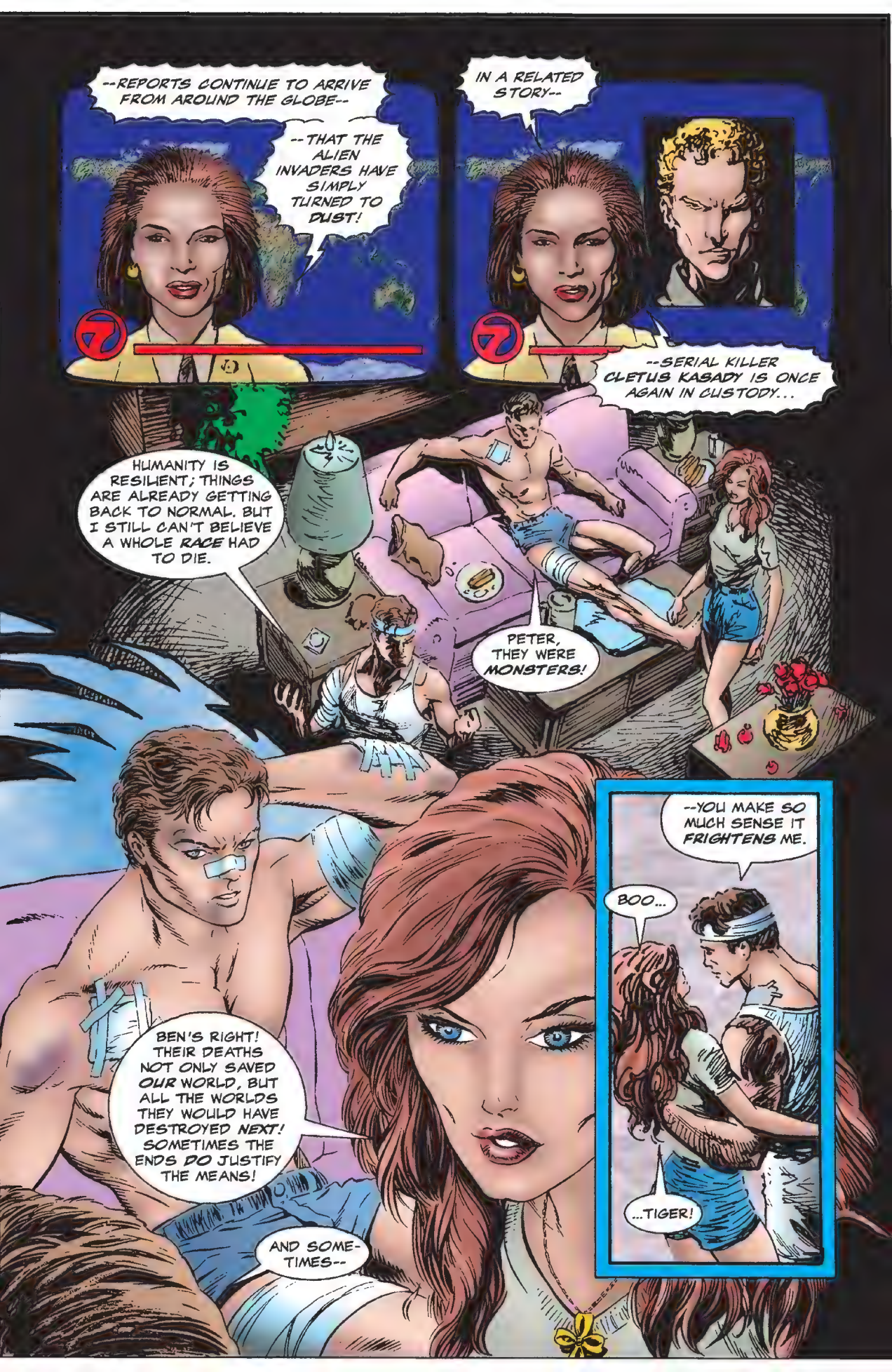
D-DID I TELL...MARY JANE...
...I LOVE HER?
PETER... I...
...I'M SORRY...!

BEN!
FORGET ME!
STILL UNDER, DOUSING FLAMES!
WHAT ABOUT CARNAGE--?
BETTER LOOK FOR HIM!
AFTER I DUMP THIS SOUVENI--
--RRRGGH!
hmh? RIVER SWELLING? NO! I-IT'S A SEA OF--
--SYMBIOTES!


IN THE CHURCH...
IT ISN'T WORKING! PSYCHIC SIGNAL ISN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH! WE--
--WHAT? YES! YOU'RE RIGHT! WE ALWAYS WERE STRONGEST...
...TOGETHER!
ONCE MORE, HUMAN AND ALIEN MERGE.
BUT THIS JOINING IS LIKE NONE BEFORE IT.
NO LONGER A BONDING, BUT A BECOMING.
A COMBINING THAT GOES BEYOND THE PHYSICAL, BEYOND THE MOLECULAR, TO AN IRREVOCABLE LINKING OF THE SPIRIT.
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, THERE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE A TRUE EDWARD BROCK, A TRUE SECOND SELF. THERE WILL ONLY BE VENOM. AND THE PSYCHIC SHRIEK--
--BECOMES A ROAR!


OUTSIDE THE EBONY SEA SHUDDERS.
WHILE CAUGHT IN ITS BLOATED EMBRACE--
--PETER PARKER AND BEN REILLY SHARE A CONTACT RUSH...
...KNOW FOR AN INSTANT WHAT INVADERS THE WORLD OVER SUDDENLY FEEL:
SORROW.
HOPELESSNESS.
ABANDONMENT AND GRIEF.
ALL COALESCING INTO A BLACK CORE OF UNFATHOMABLE LOSS.
A DESPAIR BEYOND HUMAN IMAGINING.
AND ULTIMATELY, BEYOND--
--ENDURANCE!
WHA--?!
TH-THE SYMBIOTES! THEY DISINTEGRATED! THEY'RE...
...GONE!

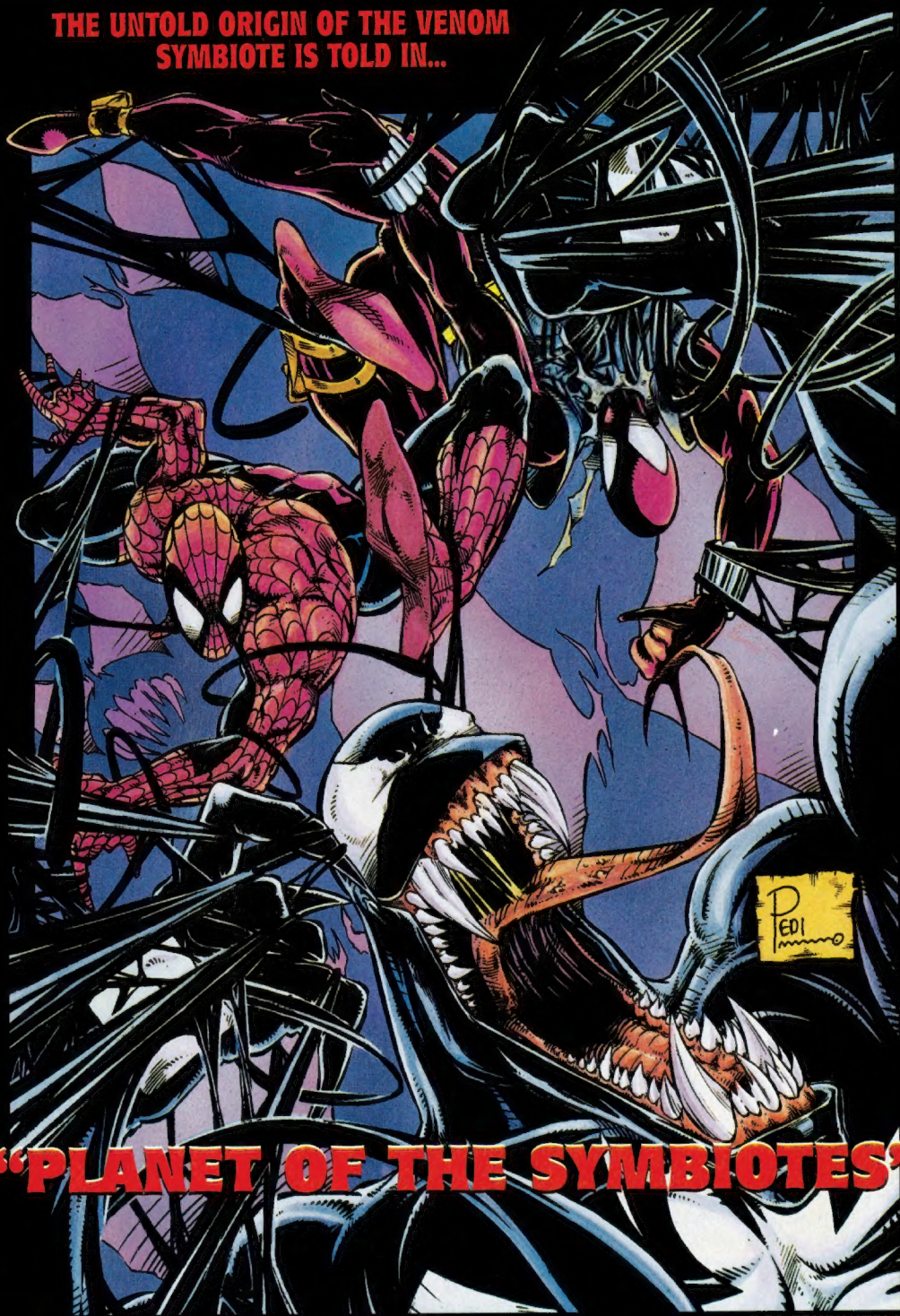
YOU KILLED THEM!
YOU SAID THEY'D FALL INTO COMAS--
--BUT YOU LIED!
AND IF WE SAID WE INTENDED TO MURDER AN ENTIRE RACE?
WE...WE WOULD HAVE STOPPED YOU?
PRECISELY. MY "OTHER" KNEW THE ONLY WAY HIS KIND CAN TRULY DIE IS BY CHOICE, BY CONSCIOUS DISCORPORATION! THUS THE SOLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE ANNIHILATION OF HUMANKIND--
--WAS TO MAKE LIFE SO UNBEARABLE FOR THE INVADERS THAT THEY CHOSE MASS SUICIDE!
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US...ASK CLETUS KASADY!
CARNAGE? HE'S HERE?!
WHERE--?
KREEESH!
AND WITH HIS CAMOUFLAGE ABILITY, WE'D NEVER FIND HIM! MAYBE IT'S TIME TO CUT OUR LOSSES, CALL IT A DAY.
GO HOME.
VENOM SUCKERED US, JUST TO GET AWAY!


--REPORTS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE FROM AROUND THE GLOBE--
--THAT THE ALIEN INVADERS HAVE SIMPLY TURNED TO DUST!
IN A RELATED STORY--
--SERIAL KILLER CLETUS KASADY IS ONCE AGAIN IN CUSTODY...
HUMANITY IS RESILIENT; THINGS ARE ALREADY GETTING BACK TO NORMAL. BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE A WHOLE RACE HAD TO DIE.
PETER, THEY WERE MONSTERS!
BEN'S RIGHT! THEIR DEATHS NOT ONLY SAVED OUR WORLD, BUT ALL THE WORLDS THEY WOULD HAVE DESTROYED NEXT! SOMETIMES THE ENDS DO JUSTIFY THE MEANS!
AND SOME-TIMES--
--YOU MAKE SO MUCH SENSE IT FRIGHTENS ME.
BOO...
...TIGER!

CENTRAL PARK.
WE ARE... CONTENT.
WE'VE RECONCILED OUR AMBIVALENCE, ACCEPTED WHAT WE ARE.
SAVING AN ENTIRE WORLD BROUGHT THAT HOME ONCE AND FOR ALL. WE KNOW NOW IT IS OUR IMMUTABLE DESTINY TO PROTECT INNOCENTS, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.
WHICH OF US DECIDES HOW TO REACH THAT NOBLE GOAL IS IRRELEVANT; ITS ACHIEVEMENT IS ALL THAT TRULY MATTERS.
AND FOR THAT REASON, WE ARE...AND WILL FOREVER REMAIN...
...VENOM!
THE END
STEVE LIEBER

IT WAS ONCE SPIDER-MAN'S COSTUME.
NOW YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS REALLY COVERING UP.

THE UNTOLD ORIGIN OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE IS TOLD IN...



"PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES"

IN THE PAGES OF SUPER-SIZE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SUPER-SIZE SPIDER-MAN, SUPER-SIZE VENOM, SUPER-SIZE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, AND SUPER-SIZE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN!

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BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO!

FEARING THE growing influence of his "other," Eddie Brock takes the drastic step of splitting himself from the Venom symbiote! But the unwitting result is a full-scale invasion by its alien race! As more and more humans are taken as hosts, Eddie must team with Spider-Man and the Scarlet Spider to save Earth from being overrun. And to do so, they must journey to the Planet of the Symbiotes! But whose side will the Venom symbiote be on? And amid all the chaos, Carnage awakens from his coma — and plans to absorb as many symbiotes as he can! Can our heroes deal with a 50-foot-tall psychopath? It's a symbiotic sci-fi super-hero spectacular!

COLLECTING MATERIAL FROM ***AMAZING SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL***, ***SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL***, ***VENOM SUPER SPECIAL***, ***SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL*** AND ***WEB OF SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL*** — WRITTEN BY DAVID MICHELINIE; AND ILLUSTRATED BY DAVE HOOVER, JOE ST. PIERRE, KYLE HOTZ, DARICK ROBERTSON AND STEVE LIGHTLE.